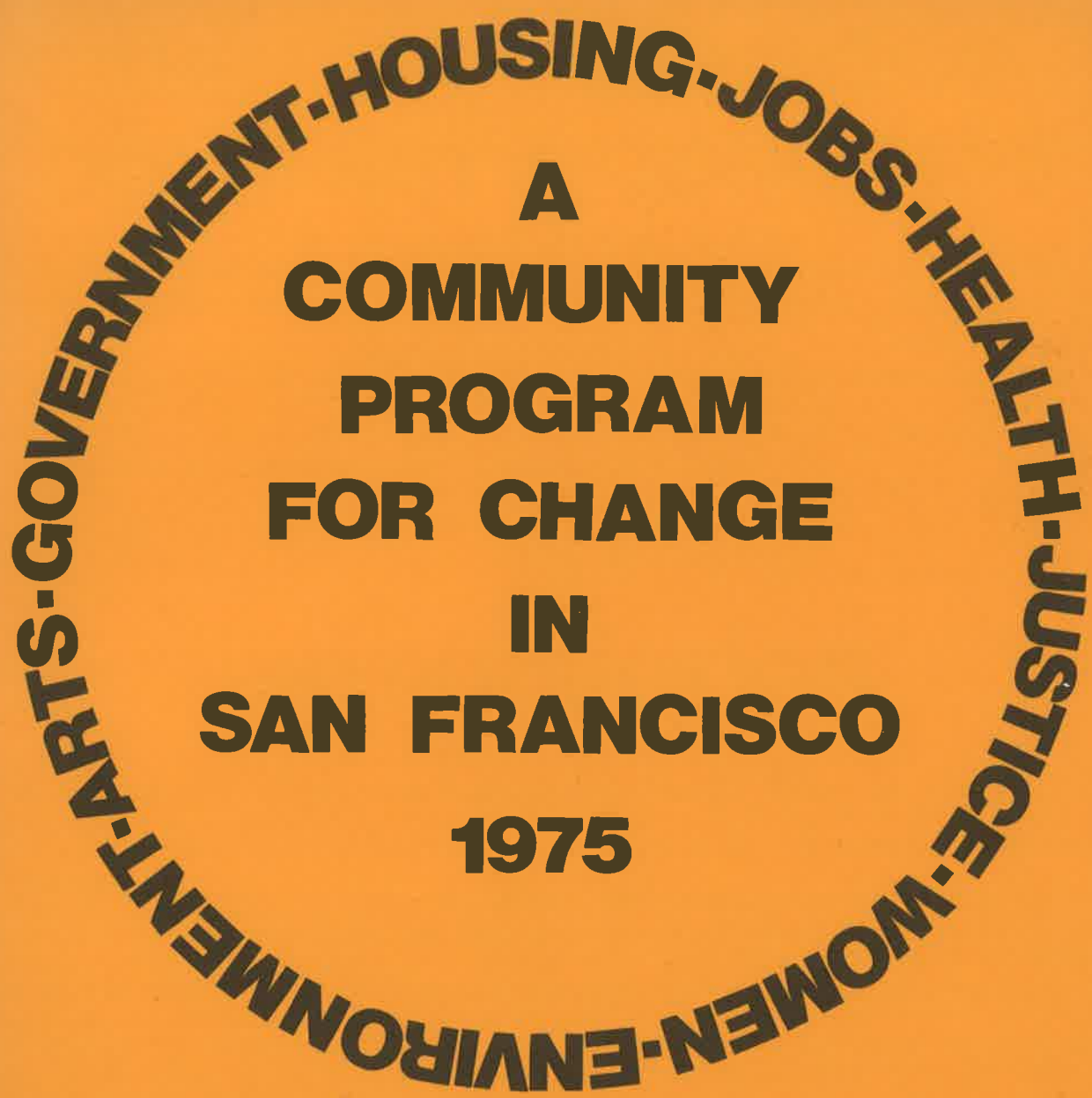


# A COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR CHANGE IN SAN FRANCISCO 1975

POSITIONS ADOPTED AT THE JUNE 1975
SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY CONGRESS

# THE SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY CONGRESS

The first San Francisco Community Congress was held on Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8, 1975, at Lone Mountain College. Nearly 1,000 people from virtually every San Francisco community came together to participate in the Congress.

The Community Congress was the culmination of a six-month process, during which 600 people attended nine "issue conventions", developed agreement on these issues and plans of action for dealing with them, and, finally, brought the results of their efforts to Lone Mountain College. Two days of open discussion, debate and voting at the Congress resulted in agreement on a broad range of issues and concerns affecting all San Francisco communities. This document presents the specific positions adopted at the Community Congress.

# INTRODUCTION

The communities of San Francisco, collectively and individually, are plagued by a series of day-to-day problems that are virtually endless, ranging from high unemployment to inadequate park and recreation facilities, from high rents and property taxes to the lack of basic human services, from unjust courts and police practices to unresponsive City government.

Long experience of struggling with these problems has made it clear to many people that there is only one place we can look for solutions to our problems; to ourselves, and our own ability to work together for our common good. Every poor and working class community in San Francisco has learned the hard way that its interests are at the bottom of the list as far as City Hall is concerned. At the top of the list are the banks, real estate interests and large corporations, who view San Francisco not as a place for people to live and work and raise families, but as a corporate headquarters city and playground for corporate executives. By using their vast financial resources, they have been able to persuade local government officials that office buildings, hotels, and luxury apartments are more important than blue collar industry, low-cost housing and decent public services and facilities.

If we must rely on our own efforts to reverse this situation, we must first of all agree on exactly what we want to change, and how we can best go about it. We must increase communication between our diverse peoples and communities, in order to better understand what problems we share in common, and we must develop working relationships that will enable us to make use of all our combined knowledge, skills and resources to meet our common needs.

The collective work and mutual agreement developed through the Congress process can lead to strengthened mutual support among all groups involved in similar efforts. Indeed, it can lead to positive action on a city-wide basis around many different issues and concerns.

The Community Congress, and its program, is only one step in a very crucial struggle -- the struggle to make San Francisco a decent place for people to live and work in. Future steps -- and the outcome of this struggle -- depend on you.

# CONGRESS HISTORY

Beginning in late 1974, various neighborhood and community groups independently began to talk about the need for a "coming together" of people interested in change in San Francisco. As people talked with each other, it became apparent that this was a concern shared by many different groups and individuals, and in January, several of these began discussions around the form such a conference should take. By February, there was general agreement that there should be an open, broad-based community conference to discuss the problems of San Francisco. It was also agreed that people could best come together around specific issues of common concern. With this very skeletal structure in mind, a series of regular planning meetings began in early March, to see if other people thought the idea was of use to them, and to discuss ways in which to fund such a series of conferences. By the end of March, it was clear that many people thought the idea of a "Community Congress" was a good idea, and people began to organize special "issue conventions" to see if others who were engaged in similar struggles were willing to work together. By April 15, nine issue conventions were being planned and the Planning Committee for the Community Congress was formed. It was composed of three representatives from each issue area, and over the next three months over sixty people actively participated in planning the Community Congress. Three community-oriented foundations, the Regional Young Adult Project, the Cambium Fund and the Third World Fund, all agreed to make grants available to put on the Congress.

The issue conventions were held during the last half of April and all of May, and were very successful. Over 500 people attended conventions on health, women, housing, jobs and economic development, government change, criminal justice, environment, arts and energy. The conventions were held in community facilities throughout the City, and many people worked hard to provide childcare, food and other needed services at the conventions. Discussions were animated, but unity was achieved, and each convention produced detailed statements of the needs and desires of San Francisco's communities.

Finally, on June 7 and 8, the Community Congress itself was held, and almost 1,000 people spent two long days expanding and refining the positions developed at the issue conventions, and adding entirely new concerns and issues. The result is this document -- a people's program for change in San Francisco.

A partial list of organizations who actively worked to bring about San Francisco's first Community Congress includes:

Association of Black Professionals
Bay Area Gay Liberation
Bay Area Women's Coalition
Bayview Senior Center
California Legislative Council for Older Americans
Canon Kip Neighborhood Center
Centro DeCambio
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Citizens Council on Criminal Justice
Citizens for Justice
Coordinating Council on Drug Abuse
Citizens for Representative Government (CRG)
Community Design Center
Concilio DeMujeres
Delancey Street Foundation
Fair Oaks Neighbors
Federation of Ingelside Neighbors (FIN)
Four-O-Nine House
Golden Gate Business and Civic Women's Assn
Golden Gate Neighborhood Centers Association
Good Health Medical Clinic
Haight-Ashbury Center for Alcohol Problems
Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council
Humanists of San Francisco
Japanese Youth Council
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Medical Committee for Human Rights
Mission Neighborhood Center
Network Against Psychiatric Assault (NAPA)
National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws (NORML)
Organization of Young Latino Activists
Peace and Freedom Party, San Francisco
Potrero Hill Community Government
Potrero Hill Neighborhood Center
People's Law School
Real Alternatives Program (RAP)
Regional Young Adult Project
San Francisco Black Political Caucus
San Francisco Democratic Women's Forum
San Francisco Tomorrow
San Quentin Six Defense Committee
Seeds of Life
Socialist Coalition
Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center
Tenant's Action Group
Tenants and Owners Opposed to Redevelopment (TOOR)
United Prisoners Union
Western Addition Project Area Committee (WAPAC)
KPOO Community Radio

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The photographs in this document were provided by Sylvie Tricard Cazenave
Typesetting was done by Marilyn Hope Smulyan
Design and Layout were done by Dean Anderson
The cover was printed by Black Sheep Press; the rest of the document was printed by Waller Press
And special thanks to everyone who made this document possible, especially the workshop recorders, Chairpeople, and members of the Community Congress Planning Committee


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# GOVERNMENT
# ENERGY
# ARTS

# one.

This section contains material from the Government and Energy issue conventions plus related issues from the Arts Caucus, the Neighborhood Environmental Caucus, the Women's Convention and from the floor of the Congress.

## A. CITY GOVERNMENT

### I. Budget

1. Citizens should have sustained, meaningful input into the allocation of their public resources. To this end at least the following steps should be taken:
   a. Each City department shall prepare, where feasible, a program budget for approval by its Commission and submission to the Mayor. In order to allow ample time for public review and comment the Mayor shall forward a consolidated City budget to the Supervisors no later than six (6) months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. The Board shall then have the power to add, as well as subtract, items, subject to line item veto by the Mayor.
   b. As part of the overall budget document, the Mayor's office shall prepare a social and economic impact assessment which shall include but not be limited to the following subjects: 1) sources and mix of municipal revenues, 2) public financing policies and procedures, and 3) municipal capital investment priorities. To this end at least the following steps should be taken:
      1. Access -- The budget and all documents relating to the budget of every City department shall be available at any time. Preliminary and draft budgets with adequate documentation shall be available in sufficient quantity at the Main library and all branch libraries.
      2. Process -- The budget cycle shall allow ample time for citizen inspection and input before budget adoption at any level. A procedure for public review and comment shall be clearly defined and established. All budget information must be made truly public through the use of the media and well-publicized hearings to ensure that the people can inform all levels of municipal government about their priorities and demands for funding. Such publicity shall require funding to be allocated for advertising in San Francisco newspapers on a regular basis announcing meetings and hearings at least 72 hours in advance. Public departmental hearings shall be held at least two months before the departmental budget is submitted to the Mayor.
      3. Preparation -- All budget documents shall be prepared in such detail as to allow citizens to determine the actual utilization of funds and their own priorities. This means not merely the preparation of the present line-item budgets, but the development of program and neighborhood budgets. Each funding proposal, whether for a capital project or operating expense, and whether financed from ad valorem taxes, hotel taxes or from Federal or other subventions, shall be included and clearly defined in the budget. Any department head or other City official who deliberately obfuscates a funding proposal or allocation shall be immediately removed from office.
      4. Supplementals -- Except for emergency situations, supplemental appropriations shall be prohibited.
2. Total revision of the Board of Supervisors' role in the budget process, in order to give the Board more power over the budget, is demanded.
3. Any outside funds (including, but not limited to revenue-sharing funds) should be removed from the sole jurisdiction

of the Mayor's office and should be placed with the other items in the budget. Adequate time and ample hearings should be given for citizen input into decisions on how these monies are spent.

4. City investment policies are losing the City's money every day, therefore:
   a. Investment policies should be reviewed at regular intervals by qualified auditors. Investment policies should be

   subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. Priorities of policies must focus on people-growth investments with a direct favorable impact on San Francisco, rather than corporate-growth investments. Elimination of certain City subsidies (e.g. City power sold cheaply to big users) should be considered. Pre-investment hearings must be held.
   b. Full examination of the City loan process and City debt service should be made by a special citizens' committee who will review and investigate current policies and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
5. Taxes
   a. Since San Francisco has a lobbyist in Sacramento, the Board of Supervisors should direct that lobbyist to actively support the repeal of the home-office property tax exemptions granted to insurance companies and banks.
   b. The Board of Supervisors should consider a city income tax levied on employers based on the number of their employees, with a credit for San Francisco resident employees, after a thorough study of the legal and economic desirability of such a measure.
   c. The City should re-evaluate City business taxes with an eye to eliminating those taxes that discourage small businesses and industry, especially job-intensive industry.
   d. The Community Congress demands that the records of the Assessment Appeals Board be available to the public on any City working day.
   e. The Assessment Appeals Board must establish a regular evening meeting time so that working home owners may have an opportunity to make appeals.
   f. The City should memorialize the State for legislation pertinant to a City income tax levied specifically on employees and workers in San Francisco who reside outside of the City and County of San Francisco.

## II. Funding and Administering City Services

In recent years the San Franciscan has seen a steady erosion in the quality of municipal services. This decline is not the result of inadequate municipal funds. Rather it has developed because of the preoccupation of local politicians with non-essential and often destructive ventures. It is time for a reordering of priorities; City services should be funded, organized and managed in a manner that will fulfill a clear set of goals designed to improve the health and well-being of San Francisco's citizens.

1. Sources of City Funds
   a. The owners of newly completed buildings should be charged a municipal "connection fee" designed to insure that

each structure is assessed its fair share of the cost of the City's existing capital facilities and services, such fee to be proportional to the number of people working, living in or otherwise using the building.

b. A special assessment district should be established for the downtown business area. Property within the district, except non-transient residential property, which has an increase in value due to public improvements should be taxed on that increase.
c. The City should memorialize the State legislature to permit the postponement of the reassessment of all properties pending a study of the relative tax burden on downtown and neighborhood residential properties.
d. Hetch-Hetchy water surplus to the needs of SF should be sold to other cities at a higher rate and the resulting additional revenue made available to the SF general fund. Hetch-Hetchy power should not be sold to any private user, directly or indirectly, at less than the market rate.
e. That portion of the sales tax levied by the City should be lowered.
f. The half-cent sales tax for BART should be rescinded.
g. There should be an independent outside audit of all City leasing procedures.
h. The current policies and procedures for assessing downtown commercial properties, allocating revenues and investing surplus city funds appear in need of reform. They should be thoroughly investigated by the Board of Supervisors under the public inquiry provisions of Section 2.400 of the Charter.

2. Major Public Projects
   a. All tax increment financing plans should be subject to a 2/3 vote of the people.
   b. All general obligation bond financing should be subject to a majority vote of the people, not 2/3.
   c. Issuance of any non-profit corporation bonds, guaranteed by the credit of the City should be subject to a 2/3 vote of the people and operation of all such corporations should be subject to periodic public review by the Board of Supervisors.
   d. Membership on the Bond Screening Committee should be recast so that the general public is represented.
   e. Developers of any proposed project should post a performance bond guaranteeing completion of the project as represented to the Planning Commission.

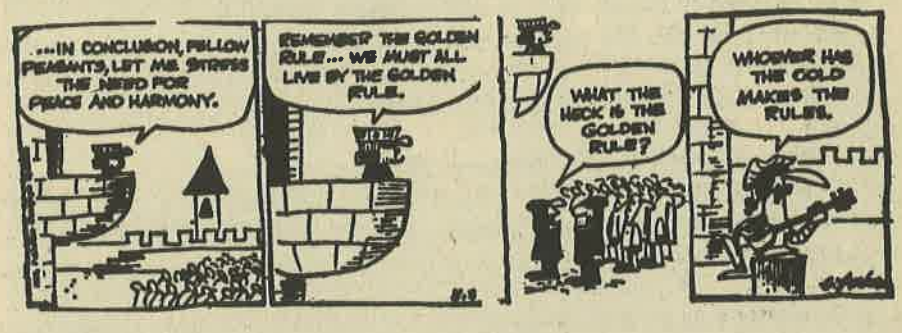
## III. Commissions, Boards, and Appointed Officials

1. A Charter Revision Commission tasked to restructure the total organization of the City and County of San Francisco should be established. The Charter Revision Commission shall become a permanant commission upon completion of the revision, with the task of regularly reviewing and updating the Charter of San Francisco. Once established, the Commission shall complete its initial revision work within two years.
   a. Two members of the Charter Revision Commission shall be elected for every member of the Board of Supervisors and they shall be elected in the same manner as the Board. (If this is in conflict with any existing law, we strongly urge that immediate steps be taken to change the law to conform with this recommendation.)
2. The office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) should be restructured to conform to the functions and responsibilities of a city manager.
   a. The CAO should report to the Board of Supervisors rather than to the Mayor.
   b. The CAO's term of office should not exceed eight years.
   c. The procedures for the selection and removal of the CAO should be the same as listed for commissions/boards (below) with public ratification.
   d. Appointments presently under the jurisdiction of the CAO should follow the procedures for selection and removal of commission/board members (below).
   e. The office of the CAO should be stripped of control of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Public Health.
   f. The Department of Public Works and the Department of Public Health should function under commissions.
3. The selection and removal of commission/board members should be standardized. Commissions and boards in the City and County of San Francisco should, have standardized composition and procedures, have mandatory public meetings with advance notice, have staff that is independent of the department they are overseeing and, reflect in their composition the diverse (race, ethnicity, sex, economic, age) make-up of the City.
   a. There should be advance publicity on commission/board openings and general solicitation for applications for appointment.
   b. The Mayor's office shall accept applications from the public. These persons shall be presented to the Mayor at a public hearing with public testimony; the Mayor shall present his/her choice to the Board of Supervisors for confirmation, which shall be by majority vote.

c. Basic qualifications for all appointments to all commissions/boards, including the ability to attend meetings, should be established. The Civil Service Department, in consultation with any existing board/commisison, should establish criteria for new members of such boards/commissions and should hold public hearings prior to adoption of such criteria. The basic criteria shall be that any member of a board/commission shall:
   1. Be a full-time resident of the City of San Francisco.
   2. Reflect the needs of all other full-time residents of San Francisco.
   3. Should be screened for conflict of interest.

d. Terms of office should be staggered, and for no more than four (4) years and a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

e. Three months in advance of the expiration of every term, the Mayor shall begin the screening process for the prospective commission/board vacancy. If a vacancy should occur on any commission/board, the screening process shall begin immediately. No vacancy shall exist on any commission/board for more than 90 days.




f. Commission/board members can only be removed for cause from office by either a two-thirds vote of the Board of Supervisors after public hearings with public testimony, or by recall petition in the same manner as elected officials.

4. The composition and size of commissions/boards should be standardized.
   a. There should be no less than five members on any commission/board.
   b. There should not be voting privileges for ex-officio members of commissions/boards.
   c. Composition of all commisions/boards shall reflect the diverse make-up of the City.
   d. Commissions/boards will have a majority of public members.
   e. Other members of commissions/boards should be knowledgeable about the subjects with which the specific commissio board is concerned.
5. Procedures of commissions/boards should be standardized.
   a. All hearings should be public, including all authorized sub or special committee meetings (not now covered by the Brown Act); hearings for adoption/changes to rules and procedures should be mandatory; and hearings for all budget considerations should also be mandatory.
   b. Alternative commission/board meetings at different locations in the communities, away from City Hall, with staggered hours, should be established.
   c. A city calendar of meetings should be establsihed and published in a set place in both the daily and Sunday newspapers at least 72 hours in advance.
   d. Commission/board members should receive compensation for reasonable expenses incurred in attendance (loss of wages, childcare) and expenses paid should be incorporated into the minutes of the commisison/board.
   e. Guidelines covering abstention from voting should be established.
   f. An independent staff pool for all commissions/boards should be established.
6. The following commissions/boards shall be established: Landmarks Advisory Board; Commission on the Disabled; Transportation Commission; Public Works Commission; Public Health Commission.
7. Hispanic Commission: Whereas the representation of the Hispanic origin population of the City and County of San Francisco on City and County boards, commissions and other City employment is deplorably low; and whereas this ethnic group is a major contributor to the tax base, history, and culture of this City; and whereas this group also has special needs and concerns for reaching equity in this polyglot metropolis for education, economic growth, and employment; let it be resolved that this convention resolve to support the establishment of a commission (like that of the Commissions on Aging, Women, etc.) to represent the Hispanic community in making these special needs and concerns known to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor and State representatives for this City. Be it further resolved that this commission be represented by bilingual (Spanish/English) leaders selected from a list of names submitted by the Hispanic organizations of this City. Further, that these representatives be clerically supported in the same way as the other established commissions..

8. The Sunshine Law, as adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, should be adopted by and for all commissions/boards.
9. All present Port Commissioners should resign their positions.

## IV. Elections

1. All Supervisors should be elected by districts and should reside in the districts from which they are elected.
   a. Districts -- there should be established a minimum of 11 districts approximately equal in population. The districts should seek to preserve neighborhood integrity.
   b. Commission -- the Community Congress will create a People's Commission that will hold public meetings in the various neighborhoods to draw the lines of the districts and determine the number of districts.
   c. Elections -- on approval of the referendum to elect Supervisors by district, the next regular municipal election shall be to fill all the district seats on the Board, notwithstanding the terms of office at the time of the referendum. The election of all Supervisors shall be for two year terms.
   d. Vacancies -- vacancies occuring on the Board of Supervisors shall be filled by special elections.
2. A limit of $25,000 should be established for expenditures by candidates for a district seat on the Board of Supervisors; contributions from any source to those candidates may not exceed $100 and non-incumbent candidates for the Board may spend up to 10% above the campaign expenditure limit.
3. Supervisors should be paid a salary of $20,000 per year and be required to work full-time for their constituents.
   a. Expenses -- reasonable expenses shall be authorized for Supervisors in the performance of their tasks. Annual expense reports by each Supervisor shall be made public.
   b. District Offices -- the City will establish an on-going office in each district for the Supervisors. Annual expense reports by each Supervisor shall be made public concerning the district office operations.
4. Individual Supervisors should have the authority to conduct public investigations into the operation of all City departments. The Board of Supervisors should actively exercise the investigative authority conferred by paragraph 2.400 of the Charter. Paragraph 2.401 should not be construed to limit the legitimate investigative authority of the Board.

## V. Affirmative Action

1. Resolved, that an Affirmative Action Program be instituted in, by and for the City and County of San Francisco, with goals and time tables defined; with review by the Board of Supervisors at budget time; with monitoring by an independent agency; with standards based on race, ethnicity, sex, age and economics.
2. Resolved, that there be a specific recommendation from today's Congress urging an immediate investigation of pay scales and job levels specifically geared to providing equitable salaries for employees, especially women, of the City and County of San Francisco.
3. Resolved, that the City and County of San Francisco support legislation which seeks "local option" to enable San Francisco to enact and enforce civil rights legislation in conjunction with the present state power under Unruh and Rumford.
4. Resolved, that action is requested form the Board of Supervisors on affirmative action programs to the effect that 1) Public funds should be so controlled that government contractors will be required to include women in their hiring practices; 2) All affirmative action compliance departments vigorously enforce affirmative action for women in all phases of employment; 3) Equal representation for women be required on all commissions and agencies that affect employment; 4) Because of existing discrimination, and because of recent Federal court litigation ordering affirmative action, we urge that the City and County of San Francisco immediately comply by employing women and minority men in the Police Department.

## VI. Voter Registration

1. The Community Congress demands that the Mayor and the Secretary of State authorize a citizen's group to investigate the office of the Registrar of Voters and the procedures of that office.
2. Voter registration should be funded by the City on a year-round basis. Volunteer deputy registrars should be paid 35 cents per valid registration, with an eventual increase to 50 cents.
3. The Registrar's office should deputize volunteer trainers from all elements of the San Francisco community, who would have the authority to give classes to prospective deputy registrars in the neighborhoods. The Registrar's office should conduct classes in those areas where there is a lack of volunteer trainers, especially in those areas where the percentage

of registered voters is under the City-wide average.
4. In the event of the passage of postcard registration legislation, San Francisco should retain the above procedure until it can be clearly demonstrated that postcard registration itself can accomplish maximum registration of voters.

## VII. The Board of Supervisors

1. Minutes of meetings of the Board of Supervisors, including committee meetings, should be prepared and made available to the public.
2. Quarterly voting and attendance records of all Supervisor's votes, including committee meetings, should be compiled and made available to the public.
3. Quarterly reports delineating the Mayor's actions with respect to each legislative action placed before him/her shall be prepared and made available to the public.
4. The Board of Supervisors will hold alternate evening meetings at locations other than City Hall.

## VIII. The City Attorney

The Charter requirement for ten years experience as a practicing attorney should be reduced to five years.

## IX. The Controller

The Controller should be appointed by the Mayor to a six-year term and should be confirmed in public hearing by the affirmative votes of at least seven Supervisors. Failure to make a complete, public report of the City's financial condition for the prior fiscal year by September 30 should cause the immediate removal of the Controller from office.

## X. The Public Library

The Library is the only public institution which provides information, education, and entertainment for all people free of charge. To provide continuing quality services, the public library should receive the same percentage of the City budget as libraries in cities of comparable size receive from their budgets. A new Main Library and regional library resource center should be built adjacent to the present Main Library building. All branch libraries should be open Sundays and evenings. City departments should be required to forward materials of historical interest to the Library archives. The Library should request the Library of Congress to establish a sub-regional center for Braille materials in the City. All fines on overdue books should be collected by the Library and applied to Library services and activities.

## XI. Civil Service

1. City Employment Practices: There should be policies of preference to City public employees who are also City residents. City public employees residing in the City of San Francisco shall be given some preference in hiring, firing, and promotion over non-residents.
2. The City should memorialize the State legislature to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot allowing San Francisco to require all City and County employees, including employees of the San Francisco Unified School District and the San Francisco Community College District, to live in San Francisco.
3. All non-clerical staff of the City Planning Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Redevelopment Agency, as well as any other department handling real property, should be required to file annual statements of real estate holdings, listing all holdings of themselves and of their immediate family, both directly owned or owned through such indirect means as partnerships, corporations, etc. Any person having such holdings shall be prohibited from working on any plan affecting such holdings, except for an owned and personally occupied residence.

## XII. The Port and Waterfront

Nowhere is the lack of ability to deal with San Francisco's problems more evident on the part of our current political leadership than along the waterfront. After eagerly promoting the City's takeover of the Port, the current City administration has proceeded to preside over its disintegration. In its zeal to close large real estate transactions on the waterfront, the San Francisco Port Commission has neglected shipping to the point where the current state of the Port is a municipal disgrace. This section contains proposals for revitalizing the San Francisco shipping industry and for bringing San Francisco's eastern bay frontage to its full potential as a great natural resource.

1. The Charter of San Francisco and State law should be amended to expand the Port Commission to seven members.

The expanded commission should consist of four representatives of the general public, one representative familiar with maritime business concerns, one representative familiar with maritime labor concerns, and one representative familiar with conservationist concerns.

2. Port leasing procedures should be tightened up so that the commissioners cannot engage in giveaways. There should be:
   a. A written policy covering all leases and requiring performance guarantees.
   b. Competitive bidding wherever possible.
   c. A limitation on the duration of leases that is appropriate to the particular land use involved, and a review of the terms and percentage payments of leases every five years.
   d. Consideration of bids from all persons showing financial responsibility, without favoritism.
   e. Prior to awarding contracts or bids, the agenda for the meeting where such bid or contract is to be voted upon shall show in detail who either submitted such bid or is to receive a contract.

### XIII. Greening of the Schools

It is resolved that support be given to the Greening of the Schools program, which provides for community design and development of needed recreation space, including play structures, landscaping and gardening, and murals that benefit the immediate and extended neighborhoods.

### XIV. Cable TV

As part of the Cable TV franchise award in San Francisco, the licensees should be required to broadcast meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

### XV. Recycling

The City should do everything possible to promote resource recycling, including free use of City-owned land on a full or part time basis by non-profit groups for recycling depots.

## B. ENERGY

### I. Lifeline and Progressive Rate Structure

Whereas light and heat, like air and water, must be recognized as basic human rights; And whereas light and heat must be provided at the lowest possible cost; Therefore be it resolved that a Lifeline rate shall be instituted whereby all energy consumers, regardless of income, shall receive up to 500 kilowatt hours of electricty and 100 therms of natural gas at one-half the current rates for this amount of energy. This lifeline rate shall remain fixed in the future, regardless of any cost increases.

A. Reflecting average residential energy consumption patterns, this Lifeline rate will benefit all energy consumers. The Lifeline rate shall apply to the initial blocks of energy consumption by larger users as well, which will particularily benefit shopkeepers and small businesses.

B. This Lifeline rate and consequent reduced utility bills for most consumers shall be financed by means of a new progressive rate structure. Charges for additional energy consumption, above the Lifeline amounts, will be tailored to gradually increase in a progressive manner. The biggest energy users will pay the steepest rates. This progressive rate structure shall be fair and equitable, and it shall reflect ability to pay without being a welfare measure.

C. Moreover, because the Lifeline rate shall be permanently fixed, the costs for any future rate increases shall be borne by big energy users. On the one hand, this would give energy utilities a necessary incentive to find cheaper, new, alternative energy sources in order to avoid such increases. On the other hand, large corporate consumers would also be forced to institute energy-saving technology and design to dramatically reduce their own vast energy waste. Lifeline and a progressive rate structure, therefore, would result in considerable energy innovation and energy conservation as well.

### II. Public Power Feasibility Study

Whereas pacific Gas and Electric now controls the entire electric and gas power provided to the City of San Francisco;

Whereas public power rates are lower everywhere in the country than surrounding private power rates; Whereas San Franciscans have the right under City Charter to own and control their "public energy utility" for the "public interest and necessity" (section 3.599); Whereas the Raker Act of 1913 was "designed to insure distribution of power from Hetch Hetchy through a municipal system in San Francisco" (US Supreme Court, 1940); Whereas the San Francisco Grand Jury in 1973 declared the present arrangement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company to be illegal; Whereas 78% of the electricity presently used by San Francisco (and at least 50% even with full San Francisco use of Hetch Hetchy power) is provided by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company owned steam electric generating plants on Potrero Hill and Hunter's Point; Whereas natural gas now supplies approximately 90% of the City's power, half directly and 40% through its use as fuel for PG&E's steam electric plants; and, Whereas the rates paid and quality of service enjoyed by San Franciscans for energy utilities are directly determined by all three of these energy sources; Therefore be it resolved that a feasibility study shall be done on the subject of acquiring the entire electric and gas operations of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in the City of San Francisco, under the authority of eminent domain.

1. This study shall cover three basic alternatives of acquisition:
   a. Electric distribution, administrative and service system only.
   b. Electric distribution, administrative and service system, plus PG&E's two steam electric generating plants.
   c. Electric distribution, administrative and service systems, plus PG&E's two steam electric generating plants, plus the natural gas distribution, administrative and service system.
2. This study shall investigate the following matters for each alternative, as appropriate:
   a. Alternative plans for acquisition (purchase, gradual purchase, leasing, etc.).
   b. Staffing requirements, including the economic and human effects of retaining versus breaking up the now integrated electric and gas administrative and service organization and workers.
   c. Detailed valuation of components to be acquired, including consideration of the greatly depreciated value of the electric distribution system; study of any necessary construction to implement a public power system (line from Newark to the City, for example).
   d. Alternative sources of power including:
      1. Use of sewage and/or garbage to generate gas to power the steam electric plants.
      2. Participation in the Northern California Public Power Association toward acquiring geothermal power.
      3. Participation in the Northern California Public Power Association toward axquiring natural gas fields.
      4. Direct acquisition of gas from oil producers, whether private or public.
      5. Solar power and other alternative energy sources.
   e. Alternate means of financing acquisition (revenue bonds, lease with option to purchase, etc.)
   f. Points of severance from the PG&E system.
   g. Consideration of alternative rate structures, including:
      1. A reversal of the present rate structure (in which large energy users pay less for each unit they use) so that residential customers get the lowest rate.
      2. A low lifeline rate for the typical amount of gas and electricity used by a San Francisco residential household (500 kilowatt-hours and 100 therms), to be instituted for the initial block of energy consumption by all users. The rate charged for this lifeline amount of energy shall be fixed at no more than half the present rates.
   h. Projected revenues at various sample rate levels and structures including PG&E's present rates.
   i. An investigation of alternative structures for management, including;
      1. A Policy Board elected by district with the City and by municipal utility workers to set policy for a publically owned power system to be implemented by a professional staff.
      2. A structure for democratic control over on-the-job type decisions by utility workers, with rights to collective bargaining guaranteed.
   j. Any legal problems involved in acquisition (condemnation, Charter language regarding revenue bond service etc.).

## III. Nuclear Safeguards Initiative

Whereas the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative has been circulated throughout California from November, 1974 to April, 1975 and the California Committee for Nuclear Safeguards has gathered approximately 500,000 signatures, an amount sufficient to qualify for the June, 1976 ballot; and Whereas the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative requires public review and appropriate testing by the nuclear industry and utilities of California so as to demonstrate publicly to the satisfaction of the State Legislature the efficacy of all safety fuels, and storage of nuclear waste material; and, Whereas we believe the people of California should and must be involved in decision making regarding energy resources and development; and Whereas we believe present safety requirements on nuclear power reactors and the nuclear fuel cycle, including nuclear radioactive waste disposal, need further study:

Therefore be it resolved that the Community Congress endorses the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative and urges the

the Board of Supervisors, other public officials and candidates for City public offices to support the passage of the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative in June 1976 state election so that these issues can be more fully considered by the general public.

### IV. Towards a Movement of Working People in San Francisco

San Francisco's downtown corporate and banking interests and their representatives in City government are attempting at a local level to shift the burden of the current economic and political crisis ever more fully onto the backs of the poor and working people of San Francisco.

Most obvious in this regard is San Francisco's governmental fiscal crisis. While city services provided to the downtown business district and to wealthy neighborhoods are fully maintained, while class-biased City projects like the Performing Arts Center are approved, and while bank and insurance company home offices continue to pay no property taxes, spending on health, education, and neighborhood services in poor and working class districts is reduced; City workers are sped up, threatened with layoffs, and attacked by measures to undermine their collective bargaining rights and residential property taxes are raised sharply each year.

Blacks, Browns, Asians and other minorities, along with women, the aged and youth are as usual being forced to bear the brunt of this attack.

Historically, San Francisco's dominant business interests have defended their wealth and power by keeping the people of the City divided into competing interest groups--Blacks against Whites, City workers against taxpayers, one neighborhood against another. As long as this divide-and-rule strategy goes unchallenged, the power of the downtown banks and corporations will remain secure.

The San Francisco Community Congress can be a tentative but important step towards ending this situation.

Resolve to begin the construction of a unified, City-wide political movement that can put an end to debilitating interest group divisions and begin to seriously contest for political power in San Francisco.

Specifically, we propose that the initial thrust of such a movement be to develop and implement a strategy to deal with San Francisco's growing governmental and fiscal crisis. Such a strategy would begin to shift the burden of the fiscal crisis off the City's poor and working people and onto the downtown business interests and for this reason could potentially unite diverse groups of people from throughout San Francisco in a common fight against corporate control of City finances.

A strategy of this kind might include, for example, waging struggles to 1) expand badly needed social spending, 2) eliminate budget items like the Performing Arts Center, designed to entertain the wealthy, 3) implement serious, progressive tax reforms, or 4) municipalize PG&E's electric and gas operations and use the resulting surplus funds to meet community needs.

These are only a few examples of the kinds of issues such a movement could raise; others can be suggested. Given the wide cross-section of San Franciscans this kind of strategy would appeal to, it seems a useful and perhaps important approach to adopt in order to continue the long fight to control our political and economic institutions and hence, our lives.
Let's get to it.

## C. ARTS

### I. Downtown Performing Arts Center

Resolved to actively oppose the construction, operation, or support of the downtown Performing Arts Center using public funds, which is planned to be built against the will of the voters of San Francisco who have twice turned it down by a two-thirds majority; and further resolved that the $5 million in Federal general revenue sharing funds presently allocated to the Performing Arts Center be reallocated for the development, facilitation, and programming of neighborhood cultural facilities.

### II. Community Cultural Facilities

Resolved that, whereas the San Francisco Art Commission has had a cultural facilities program for over two years which has in fact resulted in less available working space for performing and visual artists; and as there are no public criteria for how the funds for this program are to be spend; and as there are no budgeted funds for equipping and maintaining facilities; and as the means by which these proposed centers will be operated and by whom is unclear; and as existing neighborhood cultural facilities which are to receive funds from this program are presently operating with code violations and the constant threat of closure and still have not seen copies of the leases which will give them funding; and as the struggle for control of cultural facilities, jobs, funds, andprograms is a part of the larger struggle to gain control over all the institutions that affect our lives: therefore, the Community Congress supports the communities' right to determine for themselves how

funding will be used to support community arts, including programs and staff, and to determine the location and operation of facilities.

### III. Art Commission

Resolved that the Art Commission be made representative of working artists and community people and that the community be involved in Commission selection.

### IV. Neighborhood Arts Program

Resolved that the Neighborhood Arts Program not be considered just an adjunct of the San Francisco Art Commission, but be recognized as a program of city-wide impact in all neighborhoods, and as such that it must be provided an increased budget for its services; and further resolved that the Neighborhood Arts Program redirect its energies toward assisting rather than directing or competing with arts programs that originate in the neighborhoods.

### V. Community Arts Council

Resolved that the Community Congress supports the formation of a San Francisco Community Arts Council representative of artists and the community of San Francisco people. This community arts organization is needed for the following reasons: for the city's art community to establish their common needs and priorities; to expose the corruption and unresponsiveness of official appointed bodies; to act as a public advocate for the arts community with the City administration to bring greater artist representation on all arts institutions and all other official bodies; and to redirect the priorities of all cultural policy in San Francisco toward the needs of art workers and the communities; for disseminating information, researching arts issues, developing new sources of funding, providing legal assistance, and to catalyze the action needed to bring about effective change.

### VI. Performing and Visual Arts Facilities

Resolved to actively lobby against the destruction of existing and potential performing and visual arts facilities in the City, through legal, social and political means.

### VII. State Art Commission

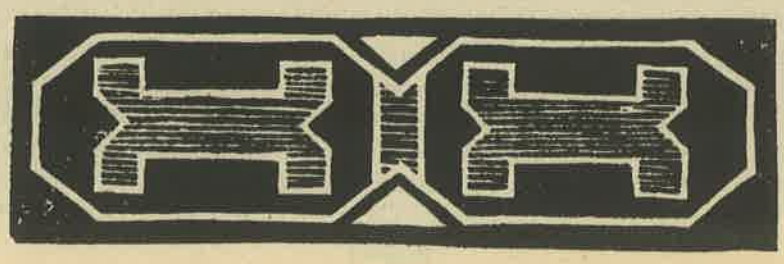
Resolved that State legislation on the arts and the State art commission, now pending in Sacramento, must be investigated and the eventual compromise arts bill presented to the legislature must reflect the need for funding community arts programs, and must contain a provision for a state arts commisison which represents community people.

### VIII. Arts Funding in New Construction

Resolved that, as it is law that 2% of the cost of all non-residential construction in San Francisco must go for art, this money shall be expended on the recommendation of a body representative of the City's artists and the people of San Francisco; in addition, at least half of this money must be placed in trust for the employment of working artists, residing in San Francisco, for the acquisition of works by these artists, or for the implementation of arts projects.

### IX. Hotel Tax

Resolved that all future expenditure of the San Francisco Hotel Tax funds must be according to guidelines developed by the community and adopted officially by the Board of Supervisors.



two.

# HOUSING
# RECREATION
# OPEN SPACE

On May 31, 1975, people from many different San Francisco communities came together to hold a community housing convention. Likewise, the question of housing was an important concern raised at the Women's convention and at the Neighborhood Environmental Caucus, held in April and May.

Clearly, then, the question of housing is an important one for many different kinds of people in San Francisco. The reason for this is also clear: City government has completely failed to develop housing policies and programs which can provide adequate housing for the people fo San Francisco. As a result, a majority of people in San Francisco are unable to find safe and decent housing at prices they can afford.

Of course, City bureaucrats would have us believe that our housing problems are not their fault -- that they have "no control" over the "private housing market", or that there's just not enough money around to build low-cost housing (they're the same reasons you get if you ask why the City doesn't do more to encourage more light industry to generate jobs, or provide more social services, etc.). In fact, the exact opposite is the case. City government, through its planning and zoning codes, decides what kind of buildings should be built and where. The City, through its various permit procedures, can approve or disapprove every single building project in San Francisco, and can decide what buildings should or shouldn't be torn down. The City, with huge sums of money on deposit in local banks and financial institutions, could very easily influence the decisions these institutions make on where they put their money, if it chose to do so. But, despite all this power, the City routinely allows private developers to tear down low-cost and family housing and replace it with hotels, parking garages, luxury apartments, and other projects designed to serve the needs not of San Francisco citizens, but of large corporations and other private interests. The basis of the City's existing housing policy is not "housing for people", but "housing for profit". If this policy is allowed to continue there soon won't be any room in San Francisco for those of us who aren't necessary to keep the offices and hotels running, and San Francisco will become a City for tourists and corporate executives.

Since City officials have shown that they can't develop housing policies and programs to meet the needs of San Franciscans, community people must take it upon themselves to do this. The positions and issues presented below represent an effort by people from many different communities in this City to lay out what the housing needs of our communities are, and what is the very least our communities will demand from the City in order to gain our right to safe and decent housing at prices we can afford.

## I. Discrimination in Housing

All people have the right to live in safe and decent housing at prices they can afford, and in locations that they choose. Discrimination in housing prevents people from exercising this right. Since economic discrimination is in large part responsible for many of the inequities in housing, an increase in the amount of low-income housing is essential. The following steps must also be taken to ensure all residents of San Francisco equal access to decent housing:

1. All forms of discrimination must be prohibited. While legislation alone will not end discriminatory practices, it is a necessary first step.
   a. State laws currently preempt local open-housing laws. Since local participation is essential for effective change, State laws must be amended to provide for local fair housing ordinances. The City should put its lobbyists and other resources to work on getting such changes made at the State level.
   b. Existing State laws should be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, marital status, age, and sexual orientation.

c. The Board of Supervisors should enact an ordinance to prohibit discrimination against children in housing.
d. The City must greatly increase the amount of financial, legal and political support for programs to enforce legislation against discrimination. The Human Rights Commission should receive additional funding and authorization to enforce civil rights laws by appropriate sanctions and remedies.

2. Affirmative Action programs in housing must be implemented to deal with discrimination on a broader level then that of case-by-case investigations, as now happens. The enactment of an Apartment House Information Ordinance, requiring annual reports on the racial and ethnic composition of tenants, and related factors, would provide the basis for such a program. The Bureau of Building Inspection should be required to gather this information and turn it over to the Human Rights Commission for appropriate action.
3. Environmental Impact Reports should include data on the effects of proposed projects on racial and economic segregation.
4. All projects undertaken in San Francisco by public agencies, or by the private sector, which require support, permission or other entitlement from the City must be required to meet minimum civil rights requirements.

## II. High Rents

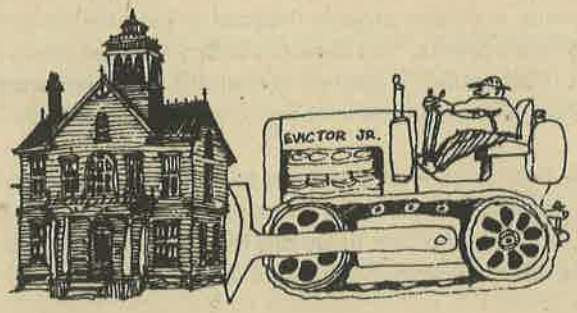
For people who must rent their housing, San Francisco is a "landlord's market". Because there is a shortage of housing in the City, and because the City is not adequately dealing with the need for low-income housing, landlords are free to charge whatever they want to people who have no place else to go. As a result, most people are forced to pay unjustly high rents.

Until there is an adequate public program creating sufficient low-cost and family housing, the City must protect tenants from unjustly high rents. The City must adopt a rent control ordinance, which provides for rent rollbacks to levels which are just and affordable, which places a reasonable limit on rent increases, and which prohibits arbitrary evictions. Rent control should be supervised by a district-elected rent control board.

To protect low-income owners of rental property, the City and State should provide property tax exemptions and subsidies for low and fixed income property owners whose rental property is also their own residence.

## III. Housing Development

1. The basic housing policy relating to San Francisco's residential communities must be to preserve and expand housing opportunities for the people who presently live in the City. To move towards such a policy, the City must immediately make and implement the following general committments:
   a. No public or private development programs will be undertaken or approved which will result in a net loss of housing for an extended period of time.




   b. There shall be no public programs, and the City shall approve no private or institutional projects, which involve the destruction of low and moderate income housing or family housing unless three conditions are met first: 1) the community in which housing to be destroyed is located has agreed that the proposed development is acceptable; 2) prior to the destruction of any housing, acceptable replacement housing is made available to everyone being displaced and adequate relocation assistance is provided; 3) the construction, within a specified period of time, of low and moderate income housing at least equal to the number of units destroyed is guaranteed.
2. The City should redefine residential zoning classifications to promote balanced housing and to protect and expand low income and family housing; the City should enact community rezoning requests.
3. The City should change the Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RAP) so that it provides necessary safeguards for residents, including at least the following:
   a. An area may be designated as a RAP area only at the initiation of a substantial number of residents of the area.
   b. There must be hardship grants for low and fixed income people who can't afford RAP loans.
   c. There must be rent subsidies for people who can't afford RAP-related rent increases.

d. There must be adequate rent control provisions, including rent control for all buildings in a RAP area, not just those on which a RAP loan is taken out.
e. There must be in-area relocation, and adequate relocation assistance for people forced to move while rehabilitation work is being done.
f. There should be no mandatory code enforcement for owner-occupied single family homes, but RAP loans should be available to such owners on request.
g. RAP public improvement plans should include funds for community services, such as childcare and neighborhood centers, and not be limited to "beautification" projects.
h. RAP Citizen Advisory Committees must be given real authority and financial support to enable them to actually determine how RAP should be administered in their community.

4. The City should develop programs to increase home ownership by low and moderate income people, with an emphasis on cooperative and condominium ownership. In particular, the City should develop cooperative ownership programs for residents of public housing, provided they approve of the programs.
   a. In the case of condominium conversion, the City's existing condominium conversion ordinance should be amended to require approval of 51% of tenants before any building can be converted, to require that at least 25% of the units in any condominium project be low-income units, and to prohibit eviction of tenants for disapproval of condominium conversion.
5. The City should rectify injustices in residential insurance policies and practices; use its good offices, contracting powers and investment policies to pressure banks and mortgage institutions to adopt equitable policies and practices. The City should create its own insurance program for low income renters and owners, and for people in redlined areas.
6. The City should establish an incentives program to require and enable private developers to provide at least 25% low-rent units in their developments.
7. The City should establish a land bank of surplus public lands in San Francisco (e.g. Yerba Buena, Muni car barns,etc) and make it a top priority to use this land for low and moderate income housing, including family housing. The City should also create a public Housing Development Corporation to serve as developer of last resort. This Corporation should stress ownership by the occupants of new public housing, and should be controlled by public housing residents. After initial projects are funded by the City, additional construction could be funded from the accumulated monthly payments of project residents. The monthly payment of occupants should include only actual construction and maintenance costs, and should not include any interest or finance charges.
8. Membership of the City Planning Commission and the Board of Permit Appeals should be changed to directly represent the communities of San Francisco. Ex-officio members shall have no vote. No person having an interest in any bank or other financial institution, real estate concern, or private development corporation shall sit on these commissions.

## IV. Special Interest Housing

1. The City should develop housing policies and programs to ensure an adequate supply of housing for individuals and groups with special housing needs. There is an inadequate supply of housing for students, for working artists, large families, families with children, teen-agers alone in the City, the handicapped, single people with social problems, extended family groups, people in need of emergency or transitional housing, etc. There is also a lack of City programs concerned with the problems of elderly homeowners on fixed incomes, and low income people in mobile homes, campers, trucks, houseboats, and visitors in such vehicles. The City should immediately establish a city-wide task force of community people and City agency people to develop programs and proposals to deal with the housing problems of people not adquately served by existing programs.
2. The City should provide an adequate supply of rent-free housing for people displaced temporarily by fire and other emergencies. Abandoned housing or vacant commercial property should be rehabilitated and used for this purpose.
3. The City should develop programs to assist elderly homeowners to maintain their homes and avoid being forced to relocate because their fixed incomes are insufficient to pay tax increases or make repairs.
4. The City should develop a program to assist non-profit organizations in establishing residential half-way houses for people in need of transitional housing.
5. At the present time most educational institutions do not provide adequate housing for their students. As a result many students are ill housed. Also, the large student population decreases the availability of housing for permanent residents and encourages higher rents, which are beyond the reach of many working families. The City should require educational institutions to carry their financial share of providing decent low-rent housing in communities throughout San Francisco. However, this should not involve the destruction of any existing housing.
6. The City should change zoning, planning and housing regulations to permit artists to convert commercial buildings into combination performing/work studios and living units, and to permit extended family groups to live together in

large buildings in single family areas.

7. The City should make it mandatory that all non-elderly public housing projects, redevelopment, and large housing developers include at least 25% units designed for large families. The size of the units should be in accordance with the specific needs of the individual community.

## V. Reorganization of City Housing Agencies

The following is an outline for a position calling for a single City agency to be charged with increasing the housing opportunities for low and moderate income people in San Francisco. Such an agency would replace, not duplicate, the existing scattered and often useless housing entities which now make a unified City housing policy an impossibility.

1. There should be a single agency of City government which is charged with preserving and expanding the housing opportunities of low and moderate income individuals and families. This agency should establish neighborhood offices.
2. Programs to improve SF's residential areas must concentrate on the rehabilitation of existing housing and should avoid the disasterous demolition and redevelopment programs of the past. Such rehabilitation must proceed on a structure-by-structure voluntary basis, rather than through area-wide code enforcement. The physical product of the programs of this new agency must stress resident employment, and voluntary rehabilitation. The agency should utilize such methods as urban homesteading, city-sponsored rehabilitation and conversion of abandoned, vacant, and condemned buildings into public housing and housing available for cooperative ownership.

3. The new agency should stress resident ownership of all units developed, highlighting cooperative forms of ownership.
4. This agency shall supplant all housing programs now administered by the Redevelopment Agency, Bureau of Building Inspection, the Housing Authority, and Central Relocation Services.
5. The agency shall also function as a housing resource center for residents of the City by providing information on available rentals, a complaint section to handle all housing discrimination complaints, and a central clearinghouse for all data on housing for the City and County. The agency shall be responsible for the collection of data on a city-wide basis concerning dislocations due to rent increases generated from housing rehabilitation and other programs, whether public or private.
6. The agency shall develop a permanent relocation assistance and rent subsidy program for dislocated individuals and households, which will effectively provide housing for these families. Funding for this program shall be required at whatever level is necessary before any public program for housing rehabilitation is instituted. Relocation assistance and rent subsidies shall be avialable to all low-income households whether the dislocation is due to public or private action.
7. The agency shall be presided over by a commission representing all SF communities. The commission shall be made

up of 3/4 people elected from neighborhood districts, and 1/4 people who are public housing tenants, elected by public housing tenants.

8. This agency shall be charged with contract allocation, review, and mitigation of Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's) affecting housing. Furthermore, all EIR contracts affecting housing shall be allocated to public, not private, agencies.
9. This agency shall have the responsibility for reviewing all aspects of teh building codes, and to revise them, retaining only those provisions that deal directly with the livability of buildings and the safety of tenants. Special attention should be given to eliminating code provisions which require unnecessary use of special materials, or which establish standards beyond those necessary for safety and liveability, so that the cost of rehabilitation can be reduced.

## VI. Housing Assistance

There is a need for a City-sponsored housing purchasing and rental assistance program which should include the following. These programs are sorely needed, considering the long waiting list for public housing in this City.

1. Developmental assistance for construction of low-income housing with an emphasis on cooperatives and condominiums either in the form of direct loans or a loan guarantee program.
2. A mobile rent subsidy program that subsidizes the individual and not the unit. A program such as this would allow poor people a certain mobility that would begin to create some kind of economic integration in the housing pattern of San Francisco
3. Immediate construction of public housing for low-income families.

## VII. Planning and Zoning

1. A vigorous program of preservation of historical landmarks should be implemented by the appropriate City agencies. The planning code should be amended to permit interiors of significant buildings to be designated as landmarks.
2. Buildings designated as historical landmarks should receive tax incentives and protection from demolition for not less than 3 years.
3. A comprehensive SF Neighborhoods Master Plan must be prepared by July 1, 1977, specifically outlining plans for each SF residential community and identifying projected population density, housing stock and type of housing, traffic density and patterns, institutional expansion, municipal transport services, fire and police services, schools, park and recreation and community facilities, etc.
4. Downzoning of the City's residential areas should continue until all parts of the City are adequately served by transit, fire, and other services. Under no circumstances should residential densities anywhere in the City exceed current zoning limits.
5. Federal funds for community development should be distributed equitably so as to benefit a wide variety of citizens and neighborhood areas.
6. Neighborhood commercial areas should provide a balanced variety of services and goods to local residents. City zoning policies should strongly discourage overdevelopment of such areas.
7. The "conditional use" process has been abused. There should be stricter enforcement of existing statutory requirements governing the granting of such permits.
8. Zoning codes should be strictly enforced respecting the establishment of businesses and professional offices by non-residents in residential areas of the City.
9. Zoning codes and environmental laws pertaining to construction projects should be strictly enforced. Zoning violations should be prosecuted by the District Attorney.
10. No street should be vacated except for park use or public open space.
11. All billboards in the City should be phased out over the next five years.
12. The City's Master Plan and the 2-year Residential Zoning Study should be revised as necessary to reflect the policies of this platform.

## VIII. Public Projects and Facilities

1. Community centers should be established in neighborhoods throughout the City.
2. Beautification, tree planting and community improvement efforts should be supported actively by City departments and should receive public funding.
3. Any public school site or facility which is discontinued as a school should be designated either as open space or as a community center.
4. All currently owned MUNI properties should remain under the jurisdiction of the City and County of San Francisco.

# B. PARKS AND RECREATION

1. The City should make available public funds and land to citizen groups who wish to plan and construct a needed and desirable recreation area, such as a mini-park, tot lot or play structure. This would require a change in Administrative Code Section 23.22 to cover these uses as well as landscaping and gardening, and would require the establishment of funding processes.

   The City as well as other organizations and corporations should be encouraged to foster the inclusion of women in existing athletic and recreation programs, particularly, but not exclusively, sports such as football, basketball, baseball, etc. The City should bring the allocation for funds for women's sports up to a point at least equal to the allocation of funds for men's sports in the Recreation Department.

   The City should take an active role in sponsoring the community acceptance and inclusion of mentally and physically handicapped into the full range of community recreation programs.

   These things could be done in at least two ways: 1) through the sponsorship by the City and the Mayor of a "City-wide Recreation Week" which would publicize all the existing programs, public and private, and encourage

   the participation of everyone in these programs. It would be particularly good to foster and solicit the participation of women, as they tend not to participate and enjoy the healthful benefits of recreation, 2) through the conscious sponsorship in schools of sports for girls as well as boys, and the broadening of those programs which have been traditionally considered programs for boys to include girls.
2. Funds must be available to supply free equipment for use by people who can't afford their own in established areas such as tennis courts and boating facilities. Also, programs available to the wealthy should be equally available to the poor (without regard to age), including dancing, gymnastics, music lessons, etc.
3. To foster the universal and equitable distribution of any new recreation services in the City, particularly in relation to the proposed development of neighborhood centers, distribution should be determined by a committee of neighborhood residents representing the racial, sexual, and age make-up of our communities.
4. The investigation of current job hiring practices for Recreation and Parks Department should be carried out in order to establish the number of women holding different types of jobs, from gardeners jobs to administrative and programming jobs. If the Department is found lacking, it is proposed that the City expand the hiring of women in the area of recreation and parks in order to ensure fuller incorporation of women into all job levels.
5. Bike-ways, walk-ways, drinking fountains and rest rooms should be provided at appropriate locations.
6. The central waterfront, South of the Bay Bridge, should be opened up to the public at several locations.
7. A major new public small boat basin should be established at Mission Rock in Central Basin.
8. Wherever feasible, the existing structures between the finger piers should be removed.
9. Priority for acquisition of recreation/open space lands from Proposition J monies should first be given to "high need"

neighborhoods and to hilltops where immediate acquisition is required to prevent development, and second to other endangered hilltops.

10. Creative financing methods, including the use of such organizations as the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land should be strongly encouraged so as to acquire the maximum amount of recreation/open space lands for the minimum local cost.
11. Financing from SF's Open Space Acquisition and Development Fund and from the State of California's conservation and park funds should be sought to help establish open space and marinas along the waterfront.
12. Neighborhood participation (both paid and volunteer) must be encouraged in Park and Rec Dept planning to help insure that supervision of programs is well thought out and coordinated with programs indigenous to the neighborhoods.
13. There should be adequate and routine safety patrolling of all park and recreation facilities.
14. The control of the SF Zoo should be removed from the Park and Rec Commission and placed under a separate Zoo Commission created to supervise and manage the affairs of the Zoo. The members of the Commission shall be selected from candidates having professional expertise in such disciplines as zoology, biology, ecology, animal psychology, veterinary medicine and management, as well as from citizens using the Zoo.
15. Adequate compensation should be provided for the Zoo Director. commensurate with salaries in other cities.
16. No admission fee should be charged for the Zoo.
17. A comprehensive master plan of SF's open space, parks, and recreational areas must be prepared by December, 1976, including complete master plans for the Zoo, Golden Gate Park, and McLaren Park. The master plan should set forth explicit priorities, identify proposed acquisitions of open spaces and other property, define all proposed capital improvements and establish timetables for all acquisitions and capital expenditures. Environmental Impact Reports should be prepared to cover each major part of the master plan. The currently planned rate of acquisition of open space properties must be accelerated by the tapping of various sources of funds, including $2.5 million per year made available by the passage of Proposition J. The City should acquire at least $25 million worth of open space properties during the next two years.
18. Existing public open space resources should be retained. Any development which degrades the natural environment of an open space area should be prohibited. All future construction in SF should be located and arranged so as not to block street view corridors.
19. San Bruno Mountain should be acquired by the State Park system. No "new town" development should be allowed on the mountain.
20. Mt. Sutro should be acquired by the City or state park system and the "Interior Green Belt Plan" implemented. Mt. Sutro should be retained in its natural state -- open space for public use.
21. Playland-at-the-Beach should be placed in public ownership. A series of public hearings on the development of a master plan for the area should encompass the Great Highway area from Balboa to Lincoln Way. Future use should be either as a public park attached to Golden Gate Park, or , in the blocks between Fulton and Balboa, as coastally-related recreational space.

three.

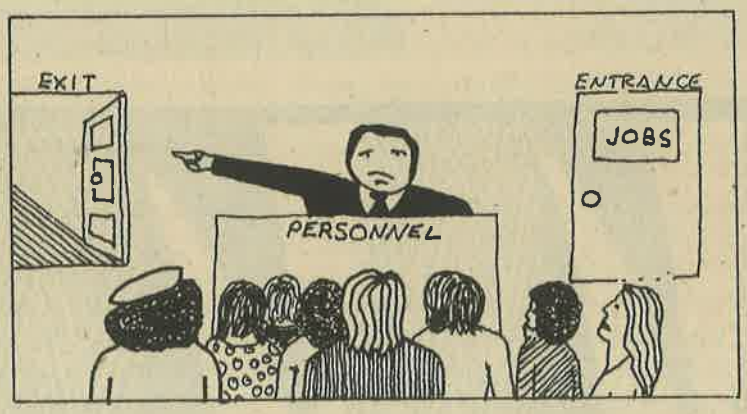
# JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Whereas:

The rate of at least 14% unemployed and an unknown percentage of underemployed people in San Francisco are among the highest in the country. And, as is the case throughout the country, it is felt most severely by Third World people who constitue over 50% of San Francisco's population, and in particular by women and youth. While blue collar unemployment and underemployment are very high in the rest of the country, in San Francisco it is phenomenally so. San Francisco has suffered from a planned economy based on the destruction of productive economic activity and of community-based economic activity, to the benefit of downtown finance interests and tourism.

The basic answer to the serious problems of the working people of San Francisco cannot be found by attempting to accommodate the City economy to pumped-in Federal money for make-work programs, manipulations to get a tourist convention attraction that will provide only a few menial and lowly-paid jobs, or a one-shot construction program of building high-rise office buildings and studio apartment buildings. Working people's problems can only be resolved by developing an effective fighting program for full productive employment: employment for all who are willing to work; at adequate union wages, producing goods and services that meet peoples' needs. Such a program must defeat the historic tactic of dividing working people along the lines of race, sexual orientation, sex and age, throwing each group crumbs and fostering overt and covert racism. It must insure that the young people of its communities know the rights which labor unions and Third World people have fought for and won, and the history of those struggles and victories.

The alternative to such a program is to abandon the City to the corporate finance forces that have made such heavy inroads already.

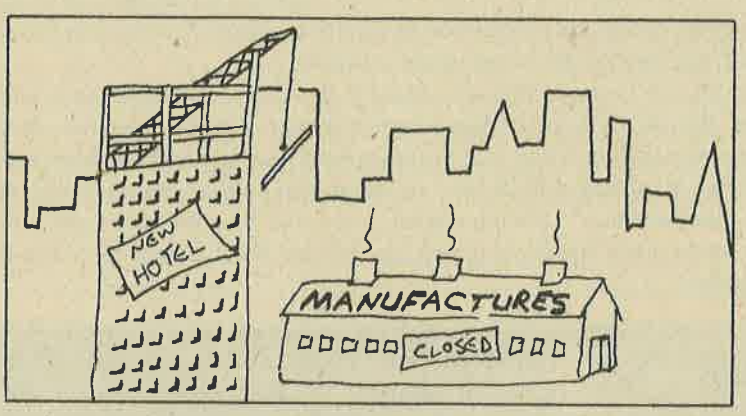



Therefore, the fight for San Francisco's economic future must be based on a program that includes the following points:

1. Full productive employment: The production of real benefits such as mass transit, housing, goods and services that meet peoples' needs, not war-related production or pointless make-work programs, with employment for all who are willing to work, at adequate prevailing union wages.
2. Organized labor, business and the government must recognize that community organizations have an essential role to play in resolving economic problems and must immediately include them in the decision-making process.
3. There must be unity of the people of the communities of San Francisco and organized and unorganized workers,

based on a program which recognizes and supports their common rights and interests.

4. Affirmative action:
   a. Communities must work together to enforce affirmative action laws and to insure that all areas of employment affected by public policy set an example of vigorous afffirmative action.
   b. Affirmative action must be enforced in the City government through commission appointments and the Civil Service.
   c. We do not support the laying off of one section of the working class to provide jobs for another. When affirmative action guidelines are not met there should be fines or criminal charges brought against those people/companies/corporations/contractors or anyone else who falls under affirmative action guidelines.
   d. The goal of affirmative action must include full recognition of the issue of sexual and affectional orientation. Job discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference or lifestyle must cease. In this regard, community support must be developed for AB 633.
   e. There must be affirmative action programs for the physically disabled or otherwise handicapped.
   f. Communities must work together to stop the loss of Federal funds to the City due to lack of affirmative action programs.




5. In order to develop an economy based on full productive employment, we must establish three types of public production, with the objective of creating collectively-owned industries that benefit residents of San Francisco.
   a. Public ownership can take three forms: 1) City-wide projects operating under grants from Federal, State and municipal governments to purchase, rent or construct plants, machinery, and raw materials; 2) Community corporations based in neighborhoods and more oriented toward more localized needs and resources, to be funded from the same sources; 3) The classical type of cooperative formed either on a geographical or industry/craft basis, the original funding for which would be long-term no interest loans from the same sources.
   b. Policy making for the public ownership and community corporations should be by elected representation consisting of a minimum of 75% representatives from the communities and workers and a maximum of 25% from the concerned government unit. Managerial and technical positions must be approved by the policy-making body and the workers in the enterprise.
   c. Working conditions in all enterprises should be subject to ratification by workers and policy-making bodies and should be the highest possible in every category.
   d. The policy-making boards of public production projects shall, subject to ratification by worker and community referendum, determine all methods of production, distribution and allocation of monies.
   e. In those large industrial plants in other parts of the country which are totally or partially idled because of the inability of the corporations to serve the peoples need, the same type of program as above should be applied with emphasis on production designed to provide developing counrries the machinery and equipment needed on either a grant or long-term, no-interest loans. Vietnam, for instance, should be immediately supplied under this program with the machinery, etc, needed to rebuild the country (at no cost) which the US destroyed.
   f. Construction of plants for manufacture and residential building should be handled in the same manner as for public production projects.
6. There must be instituted a progressive tax structure that charges corporations, hotels and the tourist industry full cost for municipal services used and allows relative tax inducements to community development corporations and industries which employ a work force of 75% or more city residents at an adequate prevailing union wage scale.
7. The City and its communities must adopt strategies and legislation that result in municipal ownership and control of public services.

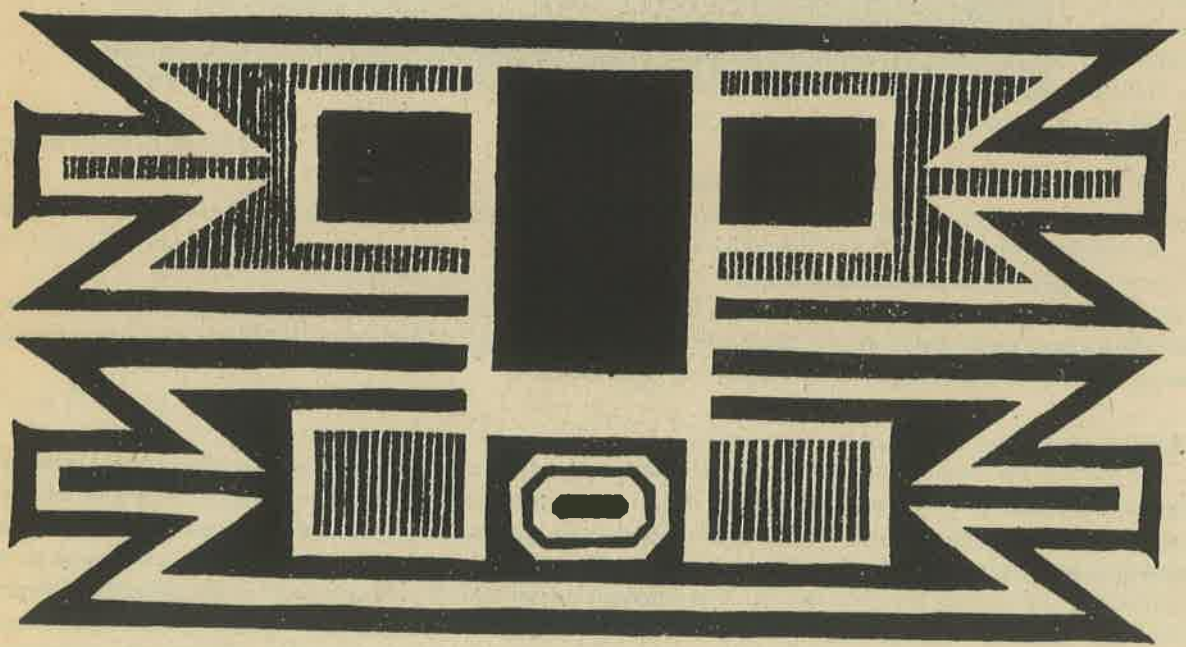
8. There must be a city-wide economic policy of community-selected members mandated to develop a comprehensive economic policy that does not concentrate on tourism and financial center development, but works to promote port development, manufacturing, skilled crafts and useful services.
9. The communities must become involved in and fight for a program which teaches the history of the struggles and victories of organized labor, Third World peoples, youth, women and gays accurately and meaningfully.
10. There must be established Employment Training Centers with the comprehensive purpose of linking trainees directly to jobs, adhering to strong enforceable affirmative action guidelines, and including recreational, cultural and community service programs.
11. There must be a city-wide survey and inventory of all vacant lands and properties including Yerba Buena, China Basin, Eastshore, and all other properties suitable to be utilized by community development corporations and for the relocation of industries which accept guidelines for economic development and employment policy from the City.
12. There must be unity of all people in opposition to all anti-labor legislation and particularly "right-to-work" laws.
13. We support the United Farmworkers Union in its efforts to organize the agricultural workers of California.
14. Consideration to support the Hawkins Bill, HR 50, will be given when it is reported out of committee, but it is strongly urged that public hearings be held in San Francisco before it is reported out of committee.
15. The Community Congress opposes the proposition of Supervisor Terry Francois (on behalf of the large merchants association) to repeal Proposition J, the street artists' initiative.
16. Resolution to support SB 825 (Jerry Smith) introduced in the California legislature to alleviate the situation of the displaced homemaker. We ask the Board of Supervisors to initiate a study of women who have been involuntarily severed from jobs as homemakers and find that helpmate roles have left them severely handicapped to provide for even basic needs. Women of all backgrounds who are dependent on their own resources face, when they are between 40 and 62, the worst discrimination in the job market; often they have no recent paid work experience in spite of years of unpaid labor in the home and in community service and they fall outside of the eligibility requirements of all existing social programs.

17. Resolution on residency requirements for employment:
    a. Because residents of the City and County of San Francisco bear the major tax burden,
    b. Because of high unemployment rates in the City and County of San Francisco
    We propose that the first priority for employment be persons residing within the boundaries of the City and County of San Francisco for employment within the Civil Service system and public sector funded programs.
18. We protest the outrageous rise of prices and rapidly increasing level of unemployment. We protest the increased government handouts to banks and corporations, while we are made to bear the crisis on our backs through unemployment and inflation. We protest increased "defense" spending on preparations for war while people all over the world and in this country are starving. We protest the drive towards war, which has always been used as a solution to the economic crises in the US. We protest deportations of "undocumented" workers, trying

to blame them for the lack of jobs at all -- regardless of national orgin. Let it be known that we take a stand against this unemployment and inflation!

19. We demand that the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA) Public Law 93-201, which provides federally funded jobs in areas of 6.5% unemployment or higher, be fully implemented so that every unemployed worker (both female and male) is guaranteed a decent job and a decent income. That existing CETA guidelines relating to women be revised so that more women will be able to qualify. That these federal jobs be designed to create better housing, quality schools and better health facilities for all workers in the San Francisco area. That Mayor Alioto and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors take immediate action to implement these demands.
20. Women workers should receive pay and benefits in accordance with the actual value of their skills and training rather than in accordance with whatever the market will bear. We propose that the dollar gap between administrators and clerks in all sections of employment be closed. We actively support the efforts of women workers to organize for better pay and benefits. We actively support the organization of domestic workers. We actively support the organization of factory workers. We actively support the struggle of trade union women to gain access to the decision making process within their own unions.
21. Public transportation and auto traffic: Every measure which is possible should be taken to improve the quality of Muni transportation in the City. This should include a ceiling on the 25-cent fare with investigation into complete elimination of fares, providing frequent service to all parts of the City, prevention of detrimental environmental effects of any aspect of public transportation, avenues of communication between the City transportation users and the Muni and City authorities, priority for public transportation in budget allocations, and any other measures which will increase the use, comfort, convenience and economy to the riders of the Muni system.

    Conversely, every measure which will encourage the use of public transit systems within, leaving and entering the City, and thus discourage the use of automobiles whould be taken. This would include establishing special bus and bicycle lanes on freeways leading into the City and on all arterial road systems within it.
22. Economic development of the port: The port of San Francisco and the related maritime industry, which includes ship-building and ship repair, can contribute greatly to the economic development of the City through commerce, encouraged industrial production and the jobs which would follow. These results would only occur if the activities of the port are placed under the tight supervision and control of representative citizen bodies. It would be necessary for these groups to prevent the monopolization of these facilities by profiteering private interests if they were to properly contribute to the welfare of the people. Some of the specific measures that should be taken are: adoption of a Comprehensive Plan for Maritime Use of the Port of San Francisco; establishing a free port area and restriction of all non-maritime commericial use of any of the area.



four.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The local criminal justice system does not work. It neither reduces crime, assists convicted offenders, nor administers so-called justice equally. Its component parts often work at cross purposes; citizen input and control of decisions are minimal and are discouraged. It is a system based on class, prejudice, racism, sexism, and ageism; criminals in positions of authority and power are left undisturbed.

When administrators and policy-makers of the criminal justice system observe the increasing rates of crime and recidivism and the growing unrest behind bars, they lament that their function is not being fulfilled to its capacity. Their goal is to make the "apparatus" more efficient by replacing parts as they wear out, retaining the original frame. This is a limited and mechanical approach, because it offers what is of use or advantage, rather than what is right or just.

As critics of the criminal justice system, we believe expediency in reform precludes definitive change. Rather than simply making internal changes (e.g. better staff, consolidation of services), institutions must be opened up to the community to encourage participation in creating and pushing for viable alternatives. Every aspect of the process from arrest and conviction to institutionalization of people must be challenged and examined with regard to its fairness; the meanings and the effects of any action that denies a person basic freedoms should be critically investigated to determine its necessity.

## I. Decriminalization of all Non-victim Crimes

We call for the decriminalization of all non-victim crimes. These crimes currently label many law-abiding citizens as criminals and crowd our courts, jails, prisons, and correctional agencies with people who otherwise might not in any way be involved in the criminal jsutice system. Until decriminalization we favor the use of mandatory citation procedures.

Therefore, we call for the repeal of Penal Code Section 647 which makes it a misdemeanor for anyone who:

a. Solicits or engages in lewd or dissolute conduct in a public place.
b. Solicits or engages in any act of prostitution.
c. Begs.
d. Loiters in or about any public toilet to solicit.
e. Loiters or wanders upon the streets without apparent reason and who refuses to identify him/her self and account for presence when requested by the police to do so.
f. Is under the influence of drugs or liquor.

We also call for the repeal of Penal Code Section 290 which calls for the registration of sex offenders with local police agencies. We support the repeal of Penal Code Sections 286 and 288a (AB 489; Brown (D) SF) and therefore oppose the proposed referendum designed to reinstate those Penal Code sections.

A. Public Inebriation

We support the intent of SB 329 which will decriminalize public inebriation. San Francisco should establish a policy in which people who are incapacitated due to alcohol consumption can voluntarily be taken to small detoxification centers, both privately operated and government run, where they will be allowed to remain until they have recovered sufficiently to look after their own welfare. There will be no involuntary detention, and it is up to the inebriate to stay as long as he/she sees fit. The emphasis on the custody and care given in the detoxification programs will be solely that of care and rehabilitation. There will be no punitive approaches allowed. If a public inebriate happens to like the way of life as an alcoholic, there will be no compulsion or coercion to require the person to change it.

B. Drug Use

The present policy of discouragement of drug use through the utilization of the criminal law has not only failed in its purpose but has been excessively costly and harmful to both society and the individual. Enforcement of the current laws is selective, with the brunt of enforcement falling upon racial and cultural minorities and the poor. Drug laws subject otherwise law-abiding persons to harassment, arrest, fines, incarceration and life-time criminal records for an offense which poses no threat to other persons or society as a whole. The harm which results to the individual person when dragged through the criminal justice system far exceeds any potential harm to the person's health from the use of drugs.

The Community Congress calls for the removal of criminal penalties for the possession and cultivation of marijuana and other drugs for personal use and urges broad application of citation arrest/release procedures and non-jail penalties for minor drug law offenders until these laws are totally repealed. We support SB 95.

C. Prostitution

We urge that the San Francisco Police Department and the District Attorney's office allocate no resources for the criminalization and prosecution of prostitutes and that the Legislative Advocate in Sacramento actively support legislation to decriminalize prostitution. We also call for the City and County of San Francisco to institute litigation to question the constitutionality of the laws relating to prostitution.

## II. Police and Police Procedures

We oppose harassment by the San Francisco Police. Criminal conduct must be the reason for a police response not such things as status, race or life-style.

A citizen's right to stand in a public place cannot be dependent on the "whim of any police officer". Exercise of authority of government must be exercised "by clearly defined laws...rather than government by the moment to moment opinions of a policeman on his beat". (Shuttlesworth v. Birmingham, 382 US, 1965)

A. Street Stops and Arrests

We support the Northern California Police Practices Project guidelines on stop and frisk and witness procedures. We propose that street stops and arrests follow certain guidelines:

1. A street stop must be based on specific, explainable facts which justify a short period of detention for immediate investigative purposes. The stop may be conducted when the officer has some degree of proof that the person is involved in a crime. The officer shall inform each person stopped of the specific reasons of the stop and his/her rights under the law.
2. An arrest is the detention of a person which is based on specific facts that give the officer probable cause to believe that the person has committed a crime.
3. The police shall not order any witnesses, including on-lookers and curious people, to "move on" from the scene of

the arrest unless that person is interfering with the arrest. Verbal protests and the asking of questions do not qualify as interfering with an arrest.

4. Warrant-less searches shall only be conducted to remove weapons that the arrested person might use to resist arrest and to seize evidence of the crime for which the arrest has been made if such evidence might otherwise be destroyed.

B. District Stations

We support the retention of at least nine district police stations and strongly oppose the attempts on the part of the City and police officials to re-locate or to reduce the number of neighborhood stations and impose centralized police facilities. We oppose the re-deployment of patrol forces from district stations and residential neighborhoods to downtown areas.

All efforts must be made to insure that the entire SFPD be made up of residents of the City. Composition of a neighborhood police station police force should reflect the ethnic and cultural composition of the neighborhood, including consideration for languages spoken and sexual orientation represented in that neighborhood.

C. Police Commission

The San Francisco Police Commission should be enlarged, the present Commissioners removed, and members representative of the San Francisco community elected.

D. Handling Violence Arising from Family and Other Disputes Between People

Prevention:

The prevention of violence between people should be primarily a family and community function and not one of police control. To this end, child, feminist, and family counseling services under the control of community and ethnic groups should be available in every neighborhood. These should be backed up by emergency teams covering telephone watch, transportation, shelter as well as emergency medical assistance. Racial, sexual, affectional preference and age bias and discrimination has to be combatted by these teams.

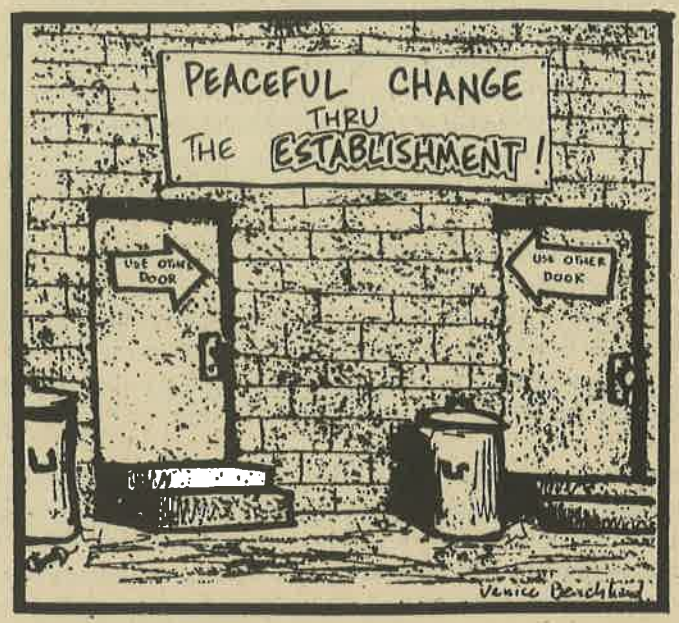
Protection of Victims:

1. When family and community services are not available or have not been able to remove the threat of bodily harm, the protection of people must have a higher priority than patrolling property or giving out tickets. Response should be immediate and its purpose must be the prevention of violence or further violence. Arrest and/or punishment is a last resort and not a solution.
2. Any arrest must be governed by the conditions and safeguards set out in Section I and Section II, Part A above.
3. All criminal complaints and evidence must be given equal weight until they have been duly processed according to procedures recommended in this report.
4. Sex, age, affectional preference, and racial discrimination by police takes the form of who they arrest, who they listen to, who they order about, who they brutalize; and also who they do not arrest, do not listen to, acts they overlook, who they do not brutalize. Family, neighbors, friends, community organizations all have the duty to observe, watch, and report and then support the victims of police hostility and brutality and act against such conduct whatever the form it takes.
5. Translators for Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, and Tagalog should be available to assist police in responding to domestic disputes.
6. Police records on domestic calls should be computerized, open to the public but not contain names and addresses of those involved. These records should reveal:
   a. Number of domestic calls received by police.
   b. Time-lapse in police response to each call.
   c. Number of arrests resulting from domestic calls.
   d. Number of repeat calls.
   e. Number of serious injuries and/or homicides resulting from repeat-call situations.
7. We support adequate police protection of senior citizens especially in those sections of the City where there exists a large concentration of such residents, such as North of Market and Oceanview-Merced Heights-Ingleside (OMI). This is to include 24 hour foot patrol in these neighborhoods and stringent enforcement of the laws against assailants of older people. The San Francisco Community Congress agrees that the issue of domestic violence is an important issue which needs an on-going work group for further study, work and action.

E. Handling of Rape Cases

The San Francisco District Attorney's office should make a priority the prosecution of rape cases. Rape crisis centers should be established to provide supportive services to victims of rape, as well as an alternative to the police department for the reporting of rape, if that is the choice of the victim. In the interim before decriminalization of low-fear crimes, priorities of the Police Department and District Attorney's office should be re-ordered to de-emphasize low-fear crimes (prostitution, sexual conduct, possession of marijuana, etc.) in order to provide resources for dealing

with high-fear crimes (crimes of violence to persons -- rape, murder, assualt, etc.). Language of the Penal Code presently stating "it is impossible for a husband to rape his wife" should be struck. The District Attorney who is an elected official of the City and County of San Francisco should make it the policy of that Office to encourage and act upon all citizen's complaints.




## III. Psychiatric Oppression

Criminal justice and psychiatry are becoming increasingly interwoven. Traditional psychiatric treatments are used primarily as tools for repressive social control. Basic human rights are being systematically violated by the forced administration of various mind-altering techniques. Psychiatric institutions have not been open to sufficient public scrutiny and imput

We therefore support the public forum with St. Mary's McAuley Neuropsychiatric Institute, proposed by the Network Against Psychiatric Assault (NAPA), because evidence indicates that St. Mary's is operating an unusually oppressive psychiatric facility.

We support legislative and other action to prohibit forced psychiatric and medical treatment on inmates in penal and psychiatric institutions, as well as people on probation, parole, and out-patient status. We also support action to abolish involuntary psychiatric commitment and to eliminate the use of medical and psychiatric experimentation on penal and psychiatric inmates.

We support the State's waiving of mental health screening under the Child Health Disability Prevention Program until there is a clear and strong concensus about how to do such screening.

## IV. The Legal Process

The following positions we have taken are an attempt to deal with some of those issues from arrest to conviction.

1. All legal rights must be afforded to all arrested and detained persons during the initial hours of detention. Failure to do so must be brought to the attention of an independent, full-time, accessable ombudsperson for follow-up and possible civil and/or criminal recourse against the responsible agencies and persons.
2. The money bail system should be eliminated. The Community Congress should engage in further action to develop standards for OR (own recognizance).
3. Adequate representation of Third World and poor people on juries must be insured.
   a. Selection should be from some source other than voter registration lists.
   b. Jurors pay should be increased from $6.00/day to at least $20.00/day.
4. The Grand Jury should be abolished because of:
   a. Its power to compel testimony.
   b. Its secrecy.
   c. Its non-representative composition.
5. Minors within the criminal justice system should be de-institutionalized. Institutionalization is detrimental to children and the ensuing adults. The community can and should take care of its children. Criteria used for the selection of surrogate parents should be re-oriented to keeping children in their own community.

6. The use of plea bargaining in San Francisco courts should be eliminated. The system of assembly line justice must end.
7. The City should provide improved and expanded neighborhood controlled legal assistance, community education, and self defense capability to indigent defendants. It should establish a consumer regulated system of evaluation of private attorneys, especially those who serve as lawyer referral panels. Information on attorneys' costs, success rates, and fields of particular interest should be easily available to consumers. A panel with a majority of public non-lawyer members representative of an ethnic, economic, affectional preference, and sexual cross section of the community should be established to evaluate the complaints of people who have been poorly represented or misrepresented by lawyers.
8. The Public Defender's Office should be funded at a level that adequately protects the fundamental democratic rights of poor and Third World people. The Public Defender's office should be reorganized to include neighborhood offices, under neighborhood control, and represent the interests of those it is supposed to serve -- the poor and Third World people of San Francisco.
9. All local and State Bar Association decision-making bodies should be a majority of public non-lawyer members, representative of those people currently disenfranchised from making decisions about the delivery of legal services.
10. The district attorney must be made to order his/her priorities away from victimless crimes.
11. Every San Francisco Judge should be required to spend at least one week per year in the San Francisco County Jail.
12. Every Board, Commission, Executive Committee, etc. of all local criminal justice agencies should have at least 51% community representation consistant with the ethnic and economic make-up of San Francisco neighborhoods as voting members.
13. The Mayor's Criminal Justice Council (the body which sets Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funding priorities and plans for the overall administration of justice departments in San Francisco) needs a total re-organization and change in personnel, priorities and direction. It must have maximum community scrutiny and veto power at all levels of decision making and programming. Additionally, there should be a separate community-based clearing house for information and education on all LEAA and criminal justice projects in San Francisco.
14. The use of restraints in the courtroom such as manacles, shackles, and waist chains which are increasingly used on Black and Brown defendants create in the jurors' minds an impression of guilt, deprive the defendants of their right to a presumption of innocence and must be prohibited.
15. Defendants are entitled to a public trial. Procedures which discourage spectators from attending a criminal proceeding (for instance requirements that spectators identify themselves, be photographed and/or finger printed) violate constitutional rights of both the spectators and, therefore, should be prohibited.

## V. Jails and Prisons

1. We endorse the moratorium on the construction of jails, prisons, and other detention facilities.
2. We call for the full restoration of civil and human rights for prisoners.
   a. Adequate access to legal counsel.
      1. Adequate legal defense be available for convicted persons at every stage of their time in jail or prison.
      2. The establishment of an adequately funded appellate defenders office representative of the inmate population and easily assessible to prisoners.
      3. Adequate prisoner representation in all proceedings effecting conditions and welfare. Right to legal counsel in all disciplinary and classification hearings as well as the right to represent oneself in such hearings and in affirmative proceedings initiated by themselves.
      4. Adequate libraries and training in legal research be available at the San Francisco County Jails and in all State and Federal institutions.
   b. Prisoners, including minors, are due the same constitutional and civil rights and considerations as any other person: the right to free speech, association and religious beliefs, uncensored mail, free access to literature and books, adequate visiting rights, right to be free from physical and psychological attack, and the right to participate and be heard in proceedings effecting their conditions. Laws should not penalize prisoners more than others for the same acts.
   c. We oppose any sex-based discrimination applied to confined persons, either pre-trail or post-conviction, which results in an inequality of conditions of confinement, access to educational or rehabilitative programs, access to the community or which in any other way imposes greater limitations on freedom of movement, association or privacy than experienced by those of the other sex.
   d. The right of prisoners to organize, to collectively bargain with the prison administration, to support convict initiated change, to seek redress for grievances, and to regain their civil and human rights as outlined by the Prisoners Union; the right to a prevailing wage and an end to economic exploitation must be recognized.
   e. We propose that community groups demand that the Department of Public Health set up a Division of Prison

Health within that department. This Division of Prison Health should be controlled by a board of directors composed of current prisoners, prisoner support groups, and other organizations from poor and Third World communities active in health and criminal justice issues.

1. Budget all positions specified in the Frank-Fine (Prisoner Health Project) proposal, including 37 nurses or nurse-equivalents (including screeners).
2. Health department control of medical social workers and drivers and vehicles for transporting prisoners to the hospital. No new positions or funds for the law enforcement agencies.
3. Voluntary jail psychiatric services within the jail health division, separated from court ordered diagnostic evaluations (which would remain with the Criminal Justice Unit). Such information gathered during these services shall be confidential and not subject to release to courts.
4. Full-time director with substantial supportive staff.
5. Staff responsible directly to the Board to investigate grievances of prisoners-patients with ombudsperson and/or patient advocates and for research, planning, and evaluation.
6. Ex-prisoner priority for all jail health jobs.
7. Full budget for a security ward in the San Francisco General Hospital so prisoners can receive quality in-patient care.

f. A determined sentence plan as outlined by the Coordinating Council of Prisoner Organizations which includes:

1. Equal justice for all offenders.
2. Seven categories of crime based on harm done, intent, and motive.
3. Determined sentences of reasonable length fixed by law.
4. Sentences under two years except in cases where serious bodily harm occurs.
5. No life sentences.
6. No death sentences.
7. Decriminalization of all victimless crimes.
8. Petty property crimes and improper sale of controlled substances reduced to a misdemeanor.
9. No pleading to priors.
10. No parole.

3. We believe that punitive and 'rehabilitative' functions should be separated, and that all 'rehabilitation' services to prisoners be the same services that are available to free people, and that they be the uncoerced choice of the prisoners.
4. The community at large must work toward creation and utilization of alternatives to incarceration. We propose that community groups involve themselves with people who have been convicted of crimes. In order to do that we suggest that community groups make themselves available as alternatives to incarceration and develop programs where would-be prisoners could participate. Funding of such would come from monies that otherwise are being spent for the upkeep of jails.
5. The Federal Bureau of Prisons should be abolished.
6. All political prisoners should be freed.

## VI. Youth

Exploitive, destructive, socio-economic conditions are the primary cause of dependency and imprisonment of youth; and the most affected, dependent and imprisoned youth have the least power to correct those conditions. We therefore urge:

1. That community and supportive agencies immediately seek means to dismantle juvenile correctional institutions and all institutionalization of youth and stop using the words 'juvenile delinquency' to describe the reaction of youth powerlessness to deal with those oppressive, socio-economic conditions.
2. That in place of juvenile courts, community councils be established, whose members are elected by their respective neighborhoods; these councils be given responsibility and authority for disposition of cases with the intent that the youth be responsible to the community and the community be responsible to the youth.

In order to accomplish the above, we recommend that an Office of Youth be established with a City-wide policy board and a minimum of five district advisory boards with a majority of community members who reflect a non-institutional orientation. A central administration with five district offices should be established which would coordinate public and private agencies to insure the necessary support resources for youth which will help keep the youth in their home and neighborhood environment where at all possible. The Office of Youth would insure that all monies go directly to youth for support, to include health, welfare, education, employment, housing, etc. utilizing community-based alternatives.

five.

# HEALTH

Over the last several years there has been a great deal of activity in the City health system. Community health programs have started with great ideals and continued to fight a snarl of red tape and political manipulation. Whole neighborhoods have organized to stop hospital encroachment and demand that services promised be delivered. Racism and sexism have been vigorously attacked in many health institutions. The whole orientation of western medicine toward crisis intervention and profit has been seriously questioned.

City residents have banded together and seen the strength of their collective action. Real progress has been made, but there remains a great deal of work to do. It is time now to build from our common victories to seek solutions to our most urgent needs. The San Francisco Community Congress has developed, after a health convention and other City-wide meetings of health workers and community people, a basic health platform to address our common problems

Whereas communities have not historically controlled the health services in their communities, be it resolved that programs should be community based and controlled by the people in the community served. Community groups and organizations should be developed and used as alternatives for traditional therapy wherever possible. The boards which govern expenditures of funds and make program and policy decisions (the various City-wide advisory boards) should have majority representation of people served and democratic decision-making structures. They should reflect the racial, ethnic and sexual orientation of the community. Scores of individual agencies should ask for information from people served, as well as from staff when making policy decisions. Department heads should hold open public meetings periodically to discuss policy and programs. The current trend must be stopped that makes all programs administratively top-heavy (in terms of personnel, salary and procedure) and therefore interferes with giving direct services. The unequal geographic distribution of programs throughout the City should be changed in future funding decisions.

## I. Community Services

A. The distribution of primary health services in San Francisco is inadequate to meet the needs of many City residents. The City, therefore, should seek the redistribution of primary health services, and this should be reflected in the decisions of the City Health Department, the Planning Commission, as well as health planning and review organizations and community health and mental health boards. A health planning and review board should be established composed of representatives of community-based alternative care agencies, community organizations and interested individuals to work jointly with the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the City Planning Commission.

B. The City should vigorously resist cutbacks in health and social services and should join with community groups and citizens in seeking to find solutions to the continuing funding crisis.

C. Escort and patient advocate services, particularly for non-English speaking people, must be expanded to include the entire health system.

D. Family planning services should continue to be made available free of charge to all who wish to make use of them; however, these services should be integrated into a complete prevention-education oriented health system.

E. Re-entry and followup services which includes help in finding jobs should be increased for those released from

rehabilitation programs and hospitals. These services should include discharge planning for older persons released from hospitals.

F. The number of community-based drug and alcohol treatment facilities should be increased. Priorities should be switched from control to prevention.

G. The drug treatment process should be decriminalized.

H. Financial support for programs in low-income neighborhoods should be given highest priority.

I. Mental health services should be integrated into a community-based care system rather than continue to exist as a separate entity. Total operation of mental health services and facilities, including policy making and decision making processes, should be shared jointly and equally by workers, clients and administrators.

J. Community-based health services should include a strong health education component.

K. Childcare:

1. We urge the creation of a San Francisco Office of Child Advocacy which would be the first crucial step toward providing adequate childcare. This Office would have the responsibility for the development of a five year master plan to implement a comprehensive childcare program to meet the needs of every family in San Francisco regardless of income and marital status. This Office would have a commission composed of parents and other community residents elected to insure delivery of services that reflect the values of parents and the community. It would be the responsibility of this Office to require services that eliminate sexist, racist and classist orientation that affects every level of program administration and operation. Parents and children should be included in the development and implementation of all programs.
2. The lack of facilities serves as a primary obstacle to childcare program implementation. Therefore, all current and planned public and private construction of facilities must include childcare space. Expanded use of existing buildings is necessary if we are to meet the growing need for childcare. Funds must be provided for existing buildings as an interim step. Funds for renovation and capital outlay must be appropriated. Use of existing facilities, e.g. schools, should be maximized for after school, evenings and summer care. Transportation must be provided. Private homes should be purchased to serve as community facilities, not only for childcare but for other community uses.
3. We affirm the right of every child to be cared for in a safe environment conducive to social, emotional and academic growth. Licensing should not be concerned with values and life-styles, but rather with the health and safety of the children. Therefore, flexibility and fairness of the licensing function must be insured. Licensing should be seen as a support service without fees assessed. Childcare should be available to all children regardless of economic status and must be free of linkage to welfare. However, priority must be given to those in greatest need. Childcare should be viewed as a public service which must encompass adequate salaries, fringe benefits, job security

and fair employment practices whether an employee is full or part-time. Adequate funding must be provided to deliver adequate comprehensive quality childcare services.

## II. Social Services

A. We support the adoption of a Guaranteed Annual Income, which would be sufficient to meet the current cost of living.

B. We support the adoption of a national health plan, which would guarantee quality preventive and curative health care to all including those incarcerated in San Francisco County Jails. We oppose all current legislative proposals for a national health insurance plan because the burden of financing predominantly falls, directly or indirectly, on low and middle income people.

C. We demand that a much larger share of the National budget be for human needs with a reduction in the budget for repressive surveillance and war making functions.

D. There should be coordination in the administration and distribution of all public assistance programs (i.e. SSI, GA, AFDC, Food Stamps and all county supportive services) in one facility and such facilities should be distributed throughout the community to allow better accessibility. The Department should publicize the programs and get out into the community to find out who needs help and make sure they get it.

E. It is our position that with the provision of adequate family support services, particularly for single parents, the rising number of cases of child abuse could be prevented. Parents have a right to prompt, low-cost help, without intervention of the criminal justice system, in times of stress. Community-based family support services, such as twenty-four hour emergency child care, 'cooling off' houses for parents and children and parent/child choice in alternative living situations, should be made available immediately.

F. In order to treat women as individuals, rather than as adjuncts to men, we put pressure on federal officials to delete the 'absent father' provision of Section 20. General Assistance in the City and County of San Francisco -- the lowest in the state at $83 per month -- must be raised to a minimum of $140 a month.

## III. Patients Rights

A. Forced drugging, forced shock treatment, forced psychosurgery, forced sterilization and other forms of forced psychiatric and medical treatment violate basic human and constitutional rights and should be prohibited.

B. Independent resources, legal advocacy services staffed multi-culturally, should be available throughout the health system. The public should be supplied informative, interpretive and representative services as an integral part of the health system.

C. Profiteering, which interferes with the maintenance of well-being, should be eliminated from the health care system.

D. Recipients of mental health services must be positively informed at the onset of treatment that information they might reveal in the course of treatment may be used in court to force them to accept institutionalization and unwanted psychiatric treatment. This provision should be enforced until all forms of forced treatment are ended, and until psychiatric testimony in cases involving the freedom of individuals is removed from the category of expert witness testimony.

E. Medical and psychiatric records should be available to patients, and to the person specified by the patient in case of death.

## IV. Health Workers

A. Health workers should have the right to strike and provisions should be made to care adequately for the ill so that their condition does not deteriorate noticably as a result of such strike.

B. Community Health Planning Review Agencies (CHPRA) will facilitate the use of non-physicians, such as community outreach workers, physician's assistants, nurse-practitioners, and nurses in providing improved and more readily available health services.

C. Facilities shall encourage their employees to live near the facility and seek employment of nearby residents.

D. Laws against the practice of medicine by alternative and traditional style healers should be removed and there should be a move to include them as part of the health care system.

E. CHPRA will coordinate health workers' training and education to prepare them to serve the City's communities.

This education should provide an explanation of patients' rights as well as understanding of different medical forms and cultural factors affecting health services and the well-being of the patient.

F. The basic rights of health workers must be included in decisions which affect the health system. In the May 1975 malpractice crisis the rank and file health workers were the last to be informed of situations which adversely affected them. Therefore, we strongly support caucuses of the rank and file health workers to take control of their unions.

## V. Health Institutions

A. All institutions shall develop and submit to the City Planning Commission for a public hearing, a Master Plan for proposed development of that facility. No conditional use permit for any development shall be granted to any institution, unless such development shall have been described in a Master Plan at least six months prior to the filing of the conditional use application.

B. All Master Plans of medical institutions shall be reviewed by the San Francisco Comprehensive Health Planning Council. No conditional use permit shall be granted for any development of a medical institution unless that development has been included in a Master Plan reviewed and approved by the San Francisco Comprehensive Health Planning Council.

C. The right of private medical facilities for eminent domain shall be abolished.

D. State hospitals (university, mental) shall conform to City and County zoning, hospital regulation and planning laws.

E. San Francisco General Hospital should remain a public hospital and should continue to support a full range of hospital services.

F. Twenty-four hour comprehensive emergency care should be provided throughout San Francisco.

G. Procedures are necessary to review the need for surgery and hospitalization in order to prevent over-utilization and duplication of staff and equipment in several hospitals. Such review should include alternatives such as outpatient surgical treatment.

H. Prepaid health plans should be under the jurisdiction of and responsible to the community in which they operate. Fifty one percent of the board should be made up of people receiving services under the plans.

I. Guidelines should be adopted to force all hospitals built with Hill-Burton money to accept patients unable to pay, and receipt of services should not be delayed by complicated administrative procedures.

K. Doctors affiliated with public health institutions should be prohibited from using such facilities and/or equipment and their time to treat their private, fee paying patients.

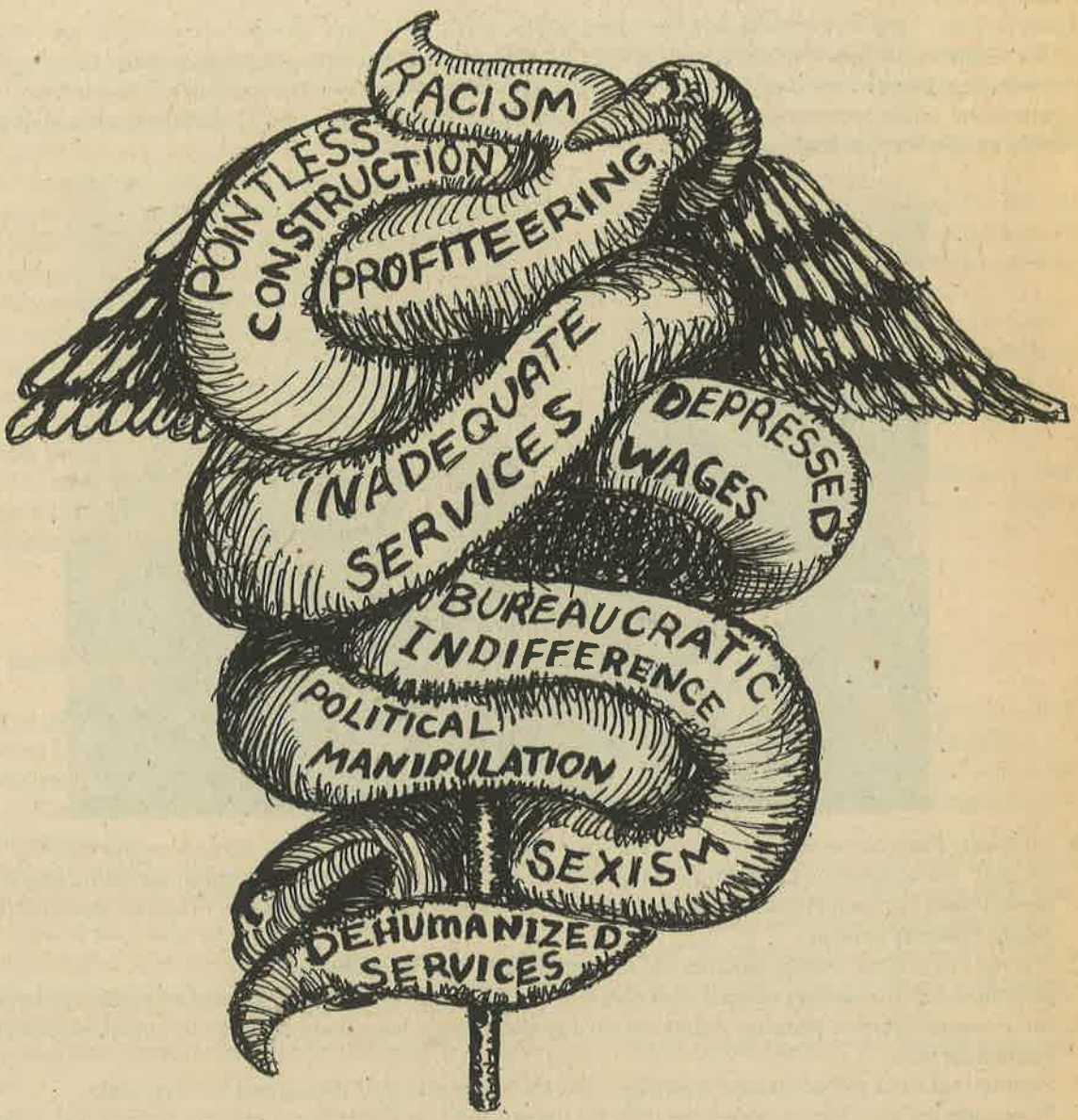
L. All health institutions should be decentralized health care facilities, especially in the poorly served communities of San Francisco. The present trend towards centralization should be reversed.

M. A citizen inspection and review board should be established to guarantee civil rights of San Franciscans residing in nursing homes, residential board and care homes, and residential homes and hospitals for the mentally retarded

and emotionally disturbed. Inspections should include residents' complaints and inappropriate use of drugs. These inspections are to be unannounced. This board will have enforcement power.

N. Free health care, including mental health and preventive care, should be available to all citizens of San Francisco.

O. We oppose the reassignment of the San Francisco School District's single health administrator to another position and support the addition of one health educator, not a new hire, to this office.




The situation in City health services demands that people begin to work together. With changes and cut-backs coming, a united effort by community groups and health workers to continue the fight for decent health care is clearly demanded. Serious efforts should be made toward forming a City-wide coalition to take action on our common needs.

# six.

# EDUCATION

# SENIORS

## I. Education

The basis for the discussion on education was presented by the United Black Educational Caucus; the following is the San Francisco Community Congress's platorm on education.

The public schools in San Francisco are entrusted by the citizens of the Black community with the responsibility of providing all students with equal educational opportunities. We as Black people have specific educational needs. We need to be educated to survive as a Black people in contemporary society. The Black communities within the City and County of San Francisco (as well as all other communities) have always left the education of their children to the San Francisco Public Schools. They have historically and notoriously failed us.

The same problems, inherent in a racist society, apply to all Third World students in the San Francisco School District. The problems of racism and poor education in the District affect white children as well.

We intend to make a massive effort to force the San Francisco Unified School District to respond to our specific educational needs. All students must have alternative and optional educational programs (such as opportunity programs, schools without walls, educational campuses and parks, community schools for elementary children, and decentrailized facilities) that will meet their particular needs and that provide for parents of these students to democratically establish decision-making boards which consist of students and parents who proportionately represent the racial and ethnic make-up of the student population participating in the program.

A. Role of the Board: In order to have an effective and successful school system in the City and County of San Francisco it is extremely necessary to have a school board that directs and supports the Superintendent. This must be a strong board that is reflective of the multi-racial make-up of the population within this district. The board must give directions, make policies, and provide the leadership that shows its responsiveness to the educational philosophy of the Black community.

B. Integration: We live in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-economic, multi-cultural community. In order to prepare people to survive, these experiences must be provided during the formative years. Education must be on an equality basis.

C. Counseling: Counseling as we know it in the San Francisco Public Schools is misguided, misdirected, and is in dire need of redefinition and restructuring. There is disruption and violence present in most of our schools, much of which is staff initiated. Accepting the fact that many students are involved in violent and illegal acts, new ways must be found in order to deal with these problems. We stand, at this point in time, on this issue with the recommendation that the entire counseling program be redefined and restructured in order to make it responsive to the students with which it must deal.

Counseling is supposed to be an act of exchanging ideas, of talking things over, of giving advice, of consulting together and determining directions. The Black community needs this kind of counseling. This must be done by counselors who understand Black people.

D. Quality Education: Quality education for all students is the minimum essential for survival of all students, especially Black students. The historical roles, problems, and contributions of all ethnic groups is essential information for each of us to adequately understand and appreciate each other. Most of the present programs fail to prepare the student with skills enough to cope with the present. There are also a number of basic skills which have been identified as essential for success in any endeavor: cooperation and getting along with peers; effective

methods of competing, solving problems, making decisions; skills in communication, reading and being able to interpret and evaluate what is read; computational skills (mathematics) and application. There is an urgency involved here in turning out people who are capable of making a living and contributing to the society in which they live.

E. Accountability: Dr William Glasser "feels that education today is failure-oriented to a large degree. In seeking identity, too many children find it most readily attainable through withdrawal or delinquency". We must deal with this fact, and deal with it now. The schools and all school personnel will have to be held accountable by the parents and the students for their constant failures. There must be continued community and student involvement on all levels of decision-making having to do with the students and the role the school plays in their lives.

F. Community Participation: There must be realistic and continued involvement and participation of the community in the development and evaluation of the total school program. We shall take all measures necessary to strengthen and support programs of community and student priority.

G. Personnel: We recommend re-evaluation and re-analysis of all school personnel in order to locate staff strengths and weaknesses. These strengths and weaknesses are to be used constructively in the business of educating our children. Faculties should be complementary. For example, all teachers strong in mathematics should not be in the same school, but shifted so that every school has someone who is strong in math. We recommend re-shifting and relocating people to fulfill these needs. All classroom and non-classroom personnel should be directly involved with the learner and the learning process. All personnel participating in alternative and optional programs shall be subject to approval by the parent-student board. If the personnel does not meet with the approval of the parent-student board, it then becomes the responsibility of the San Francisco school district to provide acceptable personnel from existing personnel sources. If acceptable personnel cannot be found from

existing sources, parents and students have the right to recommend qualified individuals to the San Francisco school district and to have a selection of personnel made from their recommendations. The San Francisco Unified School District has applied as a subcomponent of a University of San Francisco Title I V proposal addressing itself to sex discrimination in various school districts in California. Specific persons to fill positions were written into the proposal rather than having an open selection process including community involvement.

H. Discipline: We see school district discipline practices as totally biased and seriously damaging to the Black family. Expulsions and suspensions presently practiced as disciplinary measures by many school administrators are grossly discriminatory and must be stopped now. Are these practices based on the Education Code? If so, then we recommend the elimination of that part of the code. All forms of corporal punishment shall be immediately stopped and that portion of the educational code relating to corporal punishment be enforced when violations occur.

I. Curriculum: We must address ourselves to the removal of all inadequate, irrelevant, and discriminatory materials from all classrooms in the San Francisco Unified School District and Community College District campuses. Such

removals are to be replaced with materials of substance that will meet the true educational needs of the community. This is to be developed with strong emphasis on the basic reading, writing, mathematics, and problem-solving skills. All curriculum should be bilingual as needed.

J. Teachers: Teachers must be those who love and enjoy teaching children and who can appreciate ethnic diversity. They must have the kind of attitude that relates to students and must show appreciation and respect for all people. Teachers must provide examples and models which reflect positive realities for all children. Classroom size must be reduced to the ratio of one teacher to fifteen children. All teachers hired in bilingual communities should be required to have bilingual skills.

K. Students: Students will learn when placed in an atmosphere of trust and respect. They will learn self-discipline and will accept their responsibilities to actively participate in learning activities when placed in a classroom which is conducive to maximum learning.

L. Budget: We need adequate funds to meet the educational needs of the Black community. Implicit in this is a redistribution of funds based on realistic listings of community priorities on the local, community level. Funds come into this school district from federal, state, and granting organizations. All parents and students should be included in the development of the school bedget. They should also be a part of the upper-level decision-making body.

M. Rights of Gay Teachers: We support the Human Rights Commission in asking the Board of Education to include gay men and women teachers in their affirmative action program.

N. Recommendation on a New Superintendent: The most important decision effecting San Francisco children today is the selection of a new Superintendent of Schools. We urge the selection of a person fully able to understand and deal with the multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious, multieconomic, multicultural community of San Francisco, one who will work actively and enthusiastically with the community to make basic changes in the obsolete structure of the school district to meet the needs of every child.

O. Support of Alternative Community-based Schools: We strongly support expansion of alternative community-based integrated public schools in San Francisco. We do not want them cut in any way, particularly through bussing. We specifically deplore cutbacks at the Corbett School, one of the most successful experiments in learning in the San Francisco district, which is at the moment endangered.

P. The Community Congress supports the effort of continuing to bridge the gap between home and school by recommending active parent participation in the education of their children, from public pre-school through the twelfth grade. Specifically we recommend their presence in the classrooms and hallways in order that they may have the opportunity to witness first hand the conditions of the schools and classrooms, thereby creating a base for effective and informed input into curriculum planning and policy decisions. Such a measure would soon make police presence in our schools unnecessary and irrelevant. This parent participation can be aided by the support of government and the business community, who would periodically free employees in order that they may so participate. A community that has a stake in the education of its children provides an educational environment which is free of hostility, boredom, and anonymity.

Q. Young Persons' Rights: During March the San Francisco Police Department began a special project enabling them to stop all youth seen on the streets during school hours; this action is viewed as repressive. Since the Department is considering resuming this project, the Community Congress strongly opposes this program.

R. Paraprofessionals: We support the demands of paraprofessional workers in the San Francisco school system for job security and decent wages. These workers are mainly minority working women in a system with mainly minority students. Specifically we support demands for: 1) Immediate payments of cash in lieu of fringe benefits promised by the school system; 2) Rehiring notices to be sent to all currently employed paraprofessionals by the first week in June notifying them of their assignments for the following year.

S. International Women's Year: The Superintendent was instructed to report to the Board in May on activities undertaken by school sites for International Women's Year. The report included misleading and inaccurate statements inferring that such activities were being accomplished.

## II. Older Persons

Older persons are discriminated against by "ageism" as part of the "planned obsolescence" of people in the existing society. When people are considered too old to be profitable to employ, they are forced into involuntary unemployment and impoverishment and are deprived of their dignity and self-respect. We support the efforts of older people in San Francisco to protect their homes and communities. We demand that older people not be forced into mandatory retirement. Older people who wish to retire should be provided adequate incomes to live on rather than the inadequate benefits presently provided by Social Security. Older people should be restored to a place of respect in society, and the value of

their experiences and knowledge should be recognized and sought after by the community.

Therefore the Community Congress urges:

A. The immediate passage of SB 108 (Moscone, S.SF.) and AB 814 (Foran, S.F.) which will insure that all recipients of SSI (elderly, blind, and disabled) receive an annual cost-of-living increase to their benefits, based on any increase in the cost of living.
B. Federal, state, and local governments provide necessary funds to allow adequate nutrition programs for low-income elderly people in the city, particularly in areas of the highest concentration of such residents.
C. That the present Advisory Council of the San Francisco Commission on Aging be abolished and be re-established so that it be composed of senior residents 55 years of age and over, and must not represent any service agency. This body must reflect the ethnic and geographic composition of the city by equal representation on it.

## III. Cable Television

Access to information is a crucial political right especially in hard economic times, and the mass media in San Francisco have proven themselves inadequate to this task. Therefore, the Community Congress encourages the public to participate actively in the cable television rate-hike hearings before the Board of Supervisors this summer as a special opportunity to encourage community access to cable television.

We support the recommendations of San Francisco's Cable Television Task Force to secure public access to television as well as provide requisite funds to make community-originated programming an economic possibility.

We strongly oppose the bill in Congress, backed by broadcasters, to increase the licensing renewal period from three to five years. This would make television stations even less accountable to the public than they are now.

## IV. Resolution to Cut Military Spending

The San Francisco Community Congress urges:

A. Very substantial cuts in US military expenditures for fiscal 1976 and later years, especially by eliminating expenditures for new weapons systems and additions to our strategic nuclear stockpile.
B. The President and Secretary of State to lead international negotiations for substantial world-wide reductions in annual military expenditures and existing stockpiles of national armaments.
C. Re-allocation of resources, released by reducing military expenditures, to meet the enormous backlog of human needs for employment, housing, education, health, welfare, and environmental protection.
D. The conversion of military to peace production, by requiring industry to prepare detailed conversion plans and providing economic incentives for conversion and by providing for unemployment and other benefits for labor.

## V. People's Corporate Union

Historically, San Francisco's dominant business interests have defended their wealth and power by keeping the people of the City divided into competing interest groups. Blacks against whites, city workers against taxpayers, one neighborhood against another. As long as this divide-and-rule strategy goes unchallenged, the power of the downtown banks and corporations will remain secure. The San Francisco Community Congress can be an important step towards ending this situation.